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THE CHINESE DIFFICULTY.

THE news from the far East is of a very serious character; and we are afraid will please those gentlemen who think a high-handed way of dealing with foreigners the first duty of Britons. First comes the tale of the steamer "Queen," carried off by the Chinese after they had murdered passengers and crew. Next comes the Sarawak affair—the rising against Sir James Brooke on the 17th of February, involving a massacre of Europeans—and a prompt, vigorous, and proper chastisement by Sir James. This intelligence is very important, for various reasons, and awakens some political and moral questions, with which we now propose to deal.

We are afraid at the outset that it will be found very difficult to arrange matters peaceably there. The Sarawak affair indicates a wide-spread excitement among the Chinese, who are scattered over those parts of the world in great numbers, and who are a restless, eager kind of race, when once they are keenly awakened on any matter involving passion. The "Queen" incident, again, indicates blind ferocity and dangerous treachery; but there are other symptoms nearer home. It is true that Lord Elgin is *en route*; but a journey to China is a slow affair; and certain papers devoted to the Chinese policy of our Government have lately been hinting at the great things to be done before Lord Elgin's arrival, as well as after it. Indeed, we are apt to believe that we are not through half the difficulty yet; that it may be required of the country to discuss its whole relations with China *de novo*; and that further difficulties may arise besides.

These last Chinese atrocities are the fruit of the Bowring policy—the latest results of the famous bombardment. We must not forget *that* aspect of things. We are not to judge of these events as if the affair of the *loreha* had never happened; and brutal and barbarous as they are, it is an English official whose proceedings first set the disturbance afoot. This is clear enough, without its being incumbent on us to discuss, over again, events on which our readers heard our opinions at the time, and which (we may here remark) did *not* so much affect the recent elections as some people pretend. But there is no practical good to be gained by dwelling on the causes of the present trouble. We have set it going: let us see how it can be brought to an end.

Well—we have no "philanthropic" views, such as those of the "Aborigines' Protection Society," to warp us in the formation of our opinions about these matters. History does not stand still; and war and displacement of races are as justifiable in one age as in another—must be judged of, event by event, and not condemned wholesale. The English have a work to do in the far East, and if the peoples there are unwilling to co-operate, they must submit to be coerced. For instance, we should be for Sir James Brooke against the Peace Society. *He* is in the right to use the strong arm under circumstances which make the strong arm necessary—to chastise, if need be. All great settlements in new regions begin with a little "force," and have ever done so—because Providence has not acted so cruelly as to leave force and right in every instance on opposite sides. No

civilisation in the world but owes much to force for its foundation and growth. Accordingly, we shall never urge against British policy abroad objections resting on any ground of *abstract* dislike to war, only because it is war. We can easily see the justice of applying occasional power of arm to the Chinese without retracting our original opinion, that Bowring's bombardment was not justified by the special act of provocation.

Of course, it follows from this view, that while we are ready to use 32-pounders if need be, we are anxious to use them as little as possible. There is something in the peaceful nature of modern pursuits, after all, and we have seen Europe settle in two years a war which our ancestors would have made last them possibly for a generation. So we cannot help expressing our hope that Lord Elgin's journey may not be a slower one than is necessary. Until he arrives, affairs in the East must be in a kind of chaotic and dangerous state. Formal war there can scarcely be said to be; but a people demoralised by intestine war, scattered over half-savage regions, and influenced by undue castigation, are constantly brought into contact with our countrymen, and deplorable acts of violence are the result. It is clear that this must not last, for it is fatal to commerce and to the general work of the world. It is clear, too, that it is not a dignified position for England, to be keeping up a guerilla fight all over the Eastern archipelago, with a nation that has never been allowed to rank, politically, on a level with the nations of Europe. All considerations press on us to let the man who has been selected to make a formal commu-



CHINESE MANDARIN RECEIVING NEWS OF A DEFEAT.—(SEE PAGE 279.)

niation with the Chinese Government, get there as soon as possible, and not to take new steps of a hostile character—that is, acts of general hostility to the Chinese—before we see the effect produced by his arrival. Sir James Brooke has a kind of independent position as a potentate in the archipelago, and against his reprisals we have nothing to say; but we strongly deprecate the idea that a war ought to be hurried on before Lord Elgin's arrival; forced on, in fact, by officials there in a way which would at once supersede that nobleman's mission, and stultify the vote of the last House of Commons.

There is danger of this, because, in foreign affairs, there is always some danger where there is Palmerston. With all his parts, his pluck, his pride in England, this is the danger of his administration. He is too likely to carry matters with the aforesaid "high hand," and so to involve us in a war where another man might get us off with a negotiation; and he is all the more likely to try this now, when the country seems determined to demand from him those political reforms which he does not love, and those social reforms which he scarcely understands.

At present, then, as our readers will guess, we are scarcely prepared for a forcible seizure of Canton. This measure has been advocated by Sir John Davis, for the amusement of that excellent scientific society, the "Geographical." Sir John, as his book published some years since shows, has a good knowledge of the people and the place; and we agree with him, so far, that vigorous measures should be taken to suppress piracy. This course of all opening commerce prevails extensively on the Chinese coast just now, and is favoured by the fact that Canton river is full of small creeks. Against pirates in creeks let us by all means employ gun-boats without ceremony; but do not let us seize Canton at a sloop, while we absolutely have an envoy en route to negotiate with the Chinese peaceably! Besides, after all, there is more favourable testimony to the Chinese than that of Sir John Davis, from good authority. At the same meeting where he delivered the stern observations above referred to, Mr. Crauford, who lived among the Chinese for many years, "bore testimony to their generally orderly conduct." He likewise reminded us that the trade with them amounted to £15,000,000—a trade not to be imperilled or interrupted, one would hope, by any more violence than can be helped.

To conclude. We want to see a firm, moderate policy—neither bullying nor cringing—adopted towards China; and we want to see any great ulterior measures delayed till there is time to learn the result of Lord Elgin's mission—trusting meanwhile to our officers on the station to keep order without more ado than is required. We shall reserve our right, of course, to form new decisions when news from Lord Elgin arrive. But a moderate policy for the present best suits our character abroad, and will leave us free to pursue necessary reforms at home.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

THE reception of the Grand Duke Constantine and his attendants at Marseilles was of a very splendid character; Toulben was particularly cheered. The Grand Duke was to arrive in Paris on Thursday.

A grand review is to take place on the 6th of May. It will comprise all the troops of the guard and the army of Paris, or, in infantry and cavalry, 50,000 men.

The installation of Cardinal Morlot as the 14th archbishop of Paris took place on Saturday at Notre Dame.

Lord Cowley was to leave Paris for London, in order, as some say, to be present at the opening of Parliament. Another version of the cause of his departure is the necessity of attending to business connected with the patent of his earldom. A Belgian paper says that the real reason for the withdrawal of the English Ambassador is a desire to avoid the Grand Duke Constantine; this is of course absurd.

Dr. Hale, chaplain to the British Embassy, expired suddenly on Sunday morning in an epileptic fit; he was apparently in perfect health on Saturday, and had not complained of indisposition. Some months before he had been seized with a similar fit, but recovered. Dr. Hale was formerly British chaplain at Versailles and St. Germain-en-Laye, and had been attached to the British Embassy for the last six years.

A man, named Massenet, has been tried by the Tribunal of Correctional Police for using sedition language. On the night of the 6th of February he ran up a sloop at a public-house, and left without paying it; and he sang seditious songs, for which he was arrested. On being searched, a letter was found on him proposing to him to join a secret society formed for the purpose of assassination. He offered to reveal the existence of a secret society, of from sixty to eighty persons, if he was set at liberty, but his offer was not accepted. He therefore refused to say anything about the letter, but there is some reason to suppose that it was written by himself. He was proved to be a bad character, and to have been frequently in prison. He was sentenced to two years' imprisonment and to fifty francs' fine.

The provincial journals have been ordered not to allude in any way to the forthcoming elections until the electoral colleges shall be convoked. Prince Danilo, of Montenegro, has left Paris for Vienna.

Count de Paar, the Austrian ambassador, who took his departure from Turin on the occasion of the diplomatic rupture between Austria and Sardinia, has arrived in Paris.

SPAIN.

THE Carlist Conspiracy which we reported in our last number, is made very light of by later correspondents. It has been imputed to police intrigues set on foot by Narvaez for the purpose of frightening the Queen!

The King and Queen are said to be in open warfare; and scandalous stories are related to account for their quarrels. The Queen is near her confinement.

The Cortes was to be opened on the 1st of May. An abstract of the Queen's Speech has appeared. It announces the re-establishment of a good understanding between Spain and Rome, and the renewal of friendly relations with the Court of Russia. The hope is expressed that the difference with Mexico will be amicably settled, but not unless the honour of Spain is satisfied, and an indemnity paid to those who have suffered. The speech also proposes a series of political and social reforms.

An armed band of sixteen men have been arrested in the neighbourhood of the town of Haro, and, strange to say, one of them proved to be blind. Whilst some accounts say they were Carlist insurgents, others represent them as bandits.

The "Madrid Gazette" of the 23rd ult. contains a curious circular from the Minister of Grace and Justice to the provincial authorities, directing them to put an end to the custom which has lately arisen of delivering speeches, reciting pieces of poetry, &c., over the graves of deceased persons, either after or in the midst of the funeral service.

PRUSSIA AND SWITZERLAND.

At the late Conference on the Neuchâtel affair, it seems that the four Powers, Great Britain, France, Austria and Russia, offered the following proposition:—The King of Prussia to take, if he pleases, the title of Prince of Neuchâtel, but the treaty to contain no stipulation to that effect; Switzerland to pay an indemnity of 1,000,000 francs; and the revision of the constitution of Neuchâtel, though opposed by the King, to be effected without delay. The proposition has been referred to the governments of Prussia and of Neuchâtel, which latter is said to have accepted it.

RUSSIA.

THE breach between the Russian and Austrian governments seems to be widening. The language of the Russian journals is "harsher than harsh,"

whenever it is the question of Austria. The "Invalid," the organ of the Minister of War, foretells that Sardinia will have a great future, and makes sundry remarks which are anything but flattering to the pride and self-love of the Austrians, who are of opinion that they could swallow up Sardinia without experiencing the slightest inconvenience from the meal. According to the "Northern Bee," it is well that France and England have interfered to prevent a hostile collision between Austria and Piedmont, "for, as things now stand in Europe, a war between those States might necessitate other Powers to take a share in the struggle." Such a sentence as that quoted would not deserve attention had it appeared in an independent paper, but it is somewhat significant in an organ of the Russian government.

The Russian Government has just decreed that shares in the great Russian Railway Company (which has been going a begging through Europe) shall be received at par, like the funds of the State, for all caution money or public deposits. This favour is looked upon as of greater value, as the funds which are deposited in this way are very considerable, and the contractors are in the habit of paying a high premium to procure securities for the purpose.

The Government, it is said, proposes to abolish the regulations relative to the sojourn of Russians in foreign countries. At present no Russian can stay abroad more than three years; if at the expiration of that period he does not return, he is liable to the sequestration of his property. But it is now said that all Russian subjects are to be allowed to stay abroad for an unlimited period, until, in fact, reasons of State shall render their recall necessary.

ITALY.

THE breach between Austria and Sardinia remains open, but there seems to be an inclination on both sides to heal it. Much has been said about the projected camp of 20,000 men to be formed at Alessandria; on the one hand that it will, and on the other that it will, not be formed.

Several of the Piedmontese journals have announced that Austria, as a set-off to this camp, was about to construct forts on the frontier of Piedmont; but it seems that all she means to do is to build, in advance of Verona, the two forts of St. Lucia, the construction of which was decided on long ago.

Grand military manoeuvres are now going on in the Champ de Mars at Naples for the infantry, and in the Champ de Mars at Capua for the cavalry. The King and the Duke de Calabria, as well as the Count de Trapani, the Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Guard, are present at them. Ferdinand II. frequently commands the troops.

The King of Naples has prohibited country students from enrolling themselves in the Naples University. The measure has excited immense dissatisfaction.

During the last fortnight loud subterranean noises have been heard near Vesuvius, as well as violent explosions in the interior of the crater; and according to the guides an eruption may be shortly expected.

The King of Bavaria has since his arrival visited all the curiosities in the neighbourhood of Naples. Excavations are to be made in his presence at Pompeii.

According to a despatch recently received at Vienna from Count Colloredo, Austrian Ambassador at Rome, the Pontifical government is actively engaged in introducing the reforms pointed out in the first Conference at Paris as best calculated to calm the public mind. The preparatory labours are already so far advanced that the measures may be shortly carried into effect. It is only on the question of the formation of native troops that the Holy See finds great difficulty, partly arising from the repugnance felt by the inhabitants of the States of the Church to serve in the army. We hear that "The Austrian troops at Bologna and Ferrara cannot therefore be very shortly removed, as their withdrawal depends entirely on the formation of a Pontifical army."

TURKEY AND THE EAST.

THE Porte has sent Ferhad Pacha and Ismail Pacha to reside, the former at Broussa, and the latter at Ismid, for being concerned in the affair of the *Kangaroo*.

According to the last advices from the Principalities, the Turks were evacuating those countries, and the principal Boyards were in accord with the Moldo-Wallachian patriots in demanding the union of the two provinces under a foreign Prince as vassal of the Porte. Prince Ghika, the representative of Turkey, favours, it is said, this movement. It is thought that he will be disavowed. The Moldavian Government, it is said, intends to postpone the election till the 1st of June.

Some letters put into the Post-office at Constantinople for Canea, in Candia, having been opened, and amongst them three intended for the Austrian consul, that functionary has sent in a protest.

AMERICA.

THE China question has excited much attention throughout the Union. As will be seen from an article in another column, Mr. Reed has accepted the mission to China, and was to start about the middle of May, having previously had conference with Lord Palmerston and the Emperor Napoleon. General Cass's reply to Lord Napier on the Chinese question was delivered on the 11th inst. While it declines a political and military alliance with England and France, the American government, it is said, will use its best endeavours to gain the common ends proposed by both nations.

There was a fire at Baltimore on the 14th, which destroyed to the amount of half a million dollars.

The United States government have consented to pay 300,000 dollars to the government of Denmark for the abolition of the Sound Dues.

Advices from Grey Town represent that Colonel Lockridge had captured Castille, beating the Costa Ricans, with trifling loss to his own force, and had without delay effected a junction with General Walker. There is no news from Walker's headquarters.

Mr. Buchanan and his cabinet, scandalised at the immoralities of the Latter Day Saints, are about to attempt a revolution among them. It is proposed to send to Utah a military force of 2,500 men, officered by persons of character, who have families; and judges and executive officers of worth and high standing, and also "family men," are to be appointed in place of Brigham Young and his satellites. Mr. Drummond has resigned the office of Justice of the Supreme Court of Utah territory. He draws a terrible picture of life in Utah.

INDIA.

SEPOY DISAFFECTION.

THE government has resolved to punish the 19th Regiment of Native Infantry—that concerned in the mutiny at Barrampore. It has been ordered to Barrampore, where it will be disbanded. The sentence is not without a certain severity. Every native officer loses his commission. Every old sepoy loses his pension, and, as the Company only receives recruits up to a certain age, his bread. The younger men will cross over to Bombay and enlist there. But it is feared that this sentence is inadequate. Another mutiny has broken out, this time among the Madras troops at Vizieragram. The Madrasese have no caste, and their discontent must therefore proceed from other causes than the cartridge order. The probability is, that we are at this moment passing through one of those periodical storms which every now and then remind us that our government in India "sits on bayonets." The Sepoys are restless and dissatisfied. They have no particular grievances, no particular leaders, no particular wants. A war would at once remove every symptom of disaffection. But they are idle, and brood, like all Asiatics, over imaginary wrongs and absurd reports till they are ready for anything, no matter what, that will break the feverish monotony of their lives.

Mr. C. E. Boileau, Deputy Commissioner of Goudah, in Oude, has been murdered. He had displayed much energy in hunting the dacoit Frusli Ali into Nepal, but failed to arrest him. He was riding quietly through his district, attended by only four horsemen, when he was attacked by Frusli Ali and his followers. Mr. Boileau and his horsemen were cut to pieces, and his head subsequently carried into Secrora. The act has no political significance whatever. Frusli Ali is simply a bandit, whom the police have been unable to catch.

A most important despatch has been received from home on the subject of the Madras tenure. The survey of the entire Presidency has been

sanctioned. The Ryotwara system is to be modified, or rather abolished, and the Khetwar introduced. "Khetwar" means field settlement, and is so called because the assessment is placed upon each field. The owner, whoever he may be, is liable for the tax, and nothing else, his right of property while he pays it being perfect. The advantage of the change is, that as land rises in value capitalists may buy field after field, and turn the ryot into a labourer on weekly wages. In other words, the Irish system may be gradually superseded by the English; we get rid of the pauper proprietor, and land once more acquires a value.

The Government has just published a notification asserting that on the 31st of December the cash balance in the treasuries throughout India amounted to 2,65,96,000 rupees, or say 12½ millions sterling.

The cholera broke out in a wing of her Majesty's 43rd Foot, while en route from Bangalore to Madras. It lost altogether thirty-two men, two women, and nine children.

THE CHINESE WAR.

THE FLEET AND THE CANTONESE.

DESPATCHES from Hong Kong to March 15th, have arrived. The following extract from the "China Mail" of that date represents the general state of affairs at Hong Kong when the mail left:—

"Affairs in the Canton river have been very quiet for some time past. The imperialist junks are in great force. In the entrance of Fatshan Creek an attempt was made to dislodge them by the *Encounter*, small steamers, and boats of the squadron, on the 28th February, which failed, the *Encounter* not being able to get within 2,700 yards of the nearest junks, her bow pivot gun alone being able to reach them. The steamers *Hong Kong* and *Forbes* were a few hundred yards in advance, and kept up a hot fire with admirable precision, by which three of the junks were silenced. The firing was kept up on both sides for upwards of two hours, when, as if by mutual consent, there was a 'cessation of hostilities.' Shots from the junks reached the *Encounter*, and cut away some of her rigging; they also dropped plentifully round the boats, but fortunately without injuring the crews. The Chinese are now fortifying the approaches to Fatshan, and sinking barriers.

"The Cantonese have not as yet commenced re-building the suburbs or forts. They have contented themselves by digging in salt into the soil of the Factory gardens, and making a few small batteries on the left bank of the river below the ruins of the French Folly. Not a boat is to be seen in Elliot Passage, which is exposed to the guns of the *Encounter*, *Comus*, *Acorn*, *Elk*, and *Barraqueta*. Whampoa is still in a deserted state. The *Nankin*'s crew have been busily employed in destroying the South Fort, and this, the main branch of the river to Canton, is in the possession of Sir M. Seymour.

"Admiral Sir Michael is always on the *qui vive*; constantly on the river between this place and Canton, inspecting, instructing, and occasionally attacking; while Sir John Bowring is quietly taking his daily siesta, resting upon the laurels he has acquired from his first active *début* in London.

"The storehouse of Mr. Duddell, the government contractor at Hong Kong, has been burnt down, with the destruction of some 700 barrels of flour, a particularly inconvenient circumstance at the present time, to say nothing of the actual loss.

MASSACRE ON BOARD THE STEAMER "QUEEN."

On Monday, the 23rd of February, as the *Queen* steamer was on her way from Hong Kong to Macao, and when the officers and European passengers were at tiffin, the Chinese passengers, with the crew, amounting in all to about thirty-five, turned one of the cannon placed in the gangway into the cabin door, and fired its contents (grapeshot) among the Europeans there, consisting of the captain and engineer; Mr. Cleverly, late marine surveyor of Wampoa and Canton; Mr. Weir, late chief engineer to the *Sir Charles Forbes*, and two or three Portuguese with their wives. The captain received a blow on the head, and immediately jumped overboard. The two engineers would not fight, and were killed by the Chinamen; the Portuguese hid themselves under the table. Mr. Cleverly's thigh-bone was broken by a grape-shot from the first discharge of the cannon; notwithstanding which he kept the savages at bay with a revolver for about twenty minutes, shooting two or three of them when they tried to enter the after cabin, where he was. When he had no further means of resistance he threw a bamboo chair from the cabin window, stripped off his clothes, and jumped into the water, where he remained for an hour-and-a-half, clinging to the chair, and was ultimately picked up by a launch bound to Macao.

The *Queen* had on board about 120 chests of opium, besides other cargo. She has been taken to Chun-Chune, and is there at anchor, surrounded by a fleet of fifty-seven mandarin junks; her female passengers are reported to be alive and well.

REVOLT OF CHINESE COOLIES.

The Peruvian ship *Carmen* left Swatow on the 1st of March with 200 Chinese coolies for Calao. During the passage down the China Sea, some time at night, the coolies rose *en masse*, but were driven below and the hatches closed. The coolies secured down below set fire to the ship, which was soon a mass of flames. The crew took to the boats. At this time some of the coolies had managed to force the hatchways, and were observed passing up the rigging, but the masts shortly afterwards fell over into the sea. The boat in which was the captain returned to the vessel to get a sail; but just as it reached the ship the latter went down, and the boat must have been taken down with the sinking ship, as nothing was afterwards seen of the captain or the people in the boat, although the mate remained close by for nearly four hours. The mate's boat got into Singapore. The greater part of the coolies must have been suffocated by the smoke—all perished, except an interpreter.

On Wednesday, the 11th of March, the *Gulnare*, a British ship, 1,100 tons register, left Swatow, with coolie passengers for Havannah. At 7.15 A.M., on the following morning, the coolies in a body attacked the third mate and sentry in the fore part of the ship. The captain, officers, and crew immediately rescued the third mate and sentry, but not before they were severely wounded. The coolies fought with fearful desperation, and were fairly cut to pieces before they were driven below. Finding they could not regain the deck, the coolies broke up their berths and set the ship on fire in the main, mizen, and poop and hatchways, but the leaders in the incendiarism being shot down, the others extinguished the fires. The third mate and sentry were the only two of the crew who were seriously wounded. Twenty-seven coolies were killed or wounded—ten killed, three drowned, and fourteen wounded. Some afterwards jumped overboard. The *Gulnare* arrived at Singapore on the 14th of March.

ATTACK ON AN AMERICAN SCHOONER.

The American schooner *Garland* was lying off the Bogue Forts, when a Mandarin came on board to make some purchases from the cargo. In the course of conversation with the captain, the Mandarin said that the Chinese knew no difference between the English and American flags, and that 7,000 dollars were paid by the Government for each vessel captured. Subsequently, when the schooner had run about five miles from the Bogue, two Chinese who were on board attempted to seize her. The captain was standing by the main rigging, the mate and one sailor near to him, and two European sailors aloft, when the two Chinese, with a sword in each hand, attacked the captain and mate. A blow was aimed at the captain's neck, which a heavy coat collar protected; but the blow was so severe as to stun him. A Chinese sailor, seeing the captain attacked, rushed to his rescue with his sheath-knife, and holding up his left arm to protect his head, received a blow which cut him to the bone, but instantly drove his knife to the hilt in the assassin's breast, and he fell overboard. The Chinaman who attacked the mate, finding he was left alone, jumped overboard; several shots were fired at him in the water, and it is thought that he perished.

INSURRECTION IN SARAWAK.

A large body, numbering about 200 Chinese, came down the river at Sarawak, on and before the 17th of February, and at midnight commenced a most determined attack on the Government people and property. They first secured possession of the two forts, one below and the other above the town of Kuchin (the seat of Rajah Brooke's authority) which were garrisoned by only twelve men, and furnished themselves with all the arms and ammunition in the forts. This was at midnight. One party then made an attack on the residence of Sir James Brooke, whilst the remainder assaulted the houses of Mr. Crookshank, the magistrate, and Mr.

Middleton, also a government official. While the Chinese attacked the front of the Rajah's house, Sir James Brooke succeeded in escaping down the back-room, and afterwards swimming across a creek near his house, by which means he succeeded in gaining the Malay village. The assailants fired into Sir James Brooke's residence, killed Mr. Nicolet, a visitor, by a spear wound, and then plundered and set fire to the building. At the house of Mr. Crookshank the assailants met with a firm resistance, but that gentleman was overpowered. Mrs. Crookshank was brutally wounded before his eyes, and dragged away when he was no longer able to defend her. Mrs. Crookshank was believed to have been killed, but happily next morning she was found alive in the jungle. Her wounded body was covered with cocoa-nut leaves. She was removed to the Mission House, where, at the date of the last advice, she was doing well. Mr. Crookshank escaped to Sir J. Brooke's, badly wounded. Mr. Middleton's house was also attacked and fired; two of his children perishing in the flames. Mrs. Middleton hid in a bakery till the burning rafters fell about her, and, from her concealment, saw the assailants kicking about the head of her eldest child. The youngest child was murdered and thrown into the flames, where Mr. Wellington's remains were likewise consumed, his head borne off in triumph alone attesting his previous murder. Mr. Wellington was on a visit at Middleton's. The Government treasury was plundered of all it contained—a considerable sum, as nearly every European had placed his money there for safety.

Next day the Chinese Kungsi stated that they had no hostile intentions against any one but persons connected with the government; and it was arranged that they should depart, unmolested by the Malays, with the plunder they had obtained; at four p.m. they started up the river in their boats.

On Sunday, February 22, Sir James Brooke received intelligence of the retirement of the Chinese, whereupon he returned to the Sarawak River, but before he could land the Chinese Kungsi had a second time ventured down the river in great force (between 500 and 600). The return of the Chinese in such large numbers compelled the Rajah to retire or venture a collision with an inadequate force. In the meantime the Kungsi people began to commit further depredations on the government property. Sir James Brooke and his party at once proceeded in a steamer to Kuchin, and soon succeeded in driving the miscreants out of the town. The larger numbers of those driven from the town were finally either cut off by the Dyaks, or were starved in the jungle. At the outset, about 100 of the Chinese were killed. Still they were undaunted; they ventured an attack in five prahus, ravaging the banks of the river. This was on the 9th of March. At Tangah Lidah (the junction of two rivers), about fifteen miles above Kuchin, they landed, and constructed a stockade, which they armed with four guns, and garrisoned by about 250 men with muskets, &c. Believing themselves to be secure, the Chinese very foolishly neglected to secure their boats, which were captured by their opponents. The Dattoo Bundar, who was stationed here, proceeded to Kuchin in a small canoe-boat for assistance; and on the 10th of March returned with two large prahus, and some Dyak bangkongs as a reserve. Thus strengthened, the Dattoo made a dash at the Chinese stockade, and carried the place. The Chinese in the stockade were cut to pieces; in half an hour they lost from 100 to 120 men. The rest, having lost their boats, took to the jungle. A panic seized the Kungsi people, and, on the night of the 11th of March, they were in full retreat towards Sambas, closely followed by bands of Malays, who availed themselves of every opportunity to cut off the stragglers. The Chinese retired in a close body, which their assailants failed to disorder; and they made a desperate resistance, in the presence of their wives and children. As it is, however, they are driven into the jungle, where a vast number of them must perish from want and exposure.

According to the most moderate estimate, at least 2,000 Chinese have been killed, while all the flourishing settlements of the Chinese (except at Kuchin) have been destroyed. On inquiry amongst the chieftains who set against the Chinese, it was found that their loss did not exceed twelve Malays and Dyaks. The loss by these outrages chiefly falls on Sir James Brooke and the government people.

The immediate cause of this attempt is stated to be the stringent measures which Sir James Brooke has found it expedient to adopt to prevent opium smuggling.

THE UNITED STATES AND CHINA.

THE American administration (says the "New York Herald") have nominated William B. Reed, a prominent commercial lawyer of Philadelphia, to the post of Minister to China. Mr. Reed will not proceed, it is believed, directly to China. At the suggestion of Lord Napier, it is expected that he will sail to England, and consult with the Governments of France and England in reference to their policy in China; having obtained all the light they have to offer, he will proceed by the overland route as far as Aden, where the United States squadron will be waiting to receive, and forward him to his destination. The basis on which Mr. Reed's instructions are framed is careful and sound. The administration, addressed by the Ambassadors of France and England on the subject of the late troubles in China, and solicited to afford them as large a measure of co-operation as was consistent with national policy, have replied in an elaborate despatch, prepared by Mr. Cass. This document, in a kind and friendly manner, expresses the sympathy which the President feels for the cause which must be promoted by the success of the English; but at the same time adverts to the traditional policy of the Republic in steering clear of entangling alliances, and foreign wars. It is not the intention of Mr. Buchanan, says this despatch, to depart from this policy of non-interference, and he must therefore decline to co-operate in a military, or naval, or political sense, with the maritime Powers of Europe in prosecuting hostilities against the Chinese. But, as this country possesses large interests in China, and carries on an extensive trade with that part of the world, the President conceives that he is justified in co-operating peacefully with the European Powers in endeavouring to induce the Chinese to relax their rule of exclusion, and to admit foreigners to every part of their country. This Mr. Reed is directed to do, and for the better fulfilment of his purpose, he will be provided with a naval force sufficient to impose upon Orientals, and, if necessary, to protect the lives and property of our people in that meridian. The main reason why we require to send out a new Minister to China, and to arm him with peculiar powers, is that our treaty expired by limitation on the 3rd of July, 1856. Mr. Reed will thus find the ground clear. It is to be hoped that he will be able to obtain from the Chinese not only permission to trade to all parts of the coast without hindrance, but to penetrate the country, and build railroads, telegraphs, and steam machinery wherever the people can pay for them.

A FRENCH ACCOUNT OF THE CHINESE EXPEDITION.—The "Pays" contains the following:—"It appears that the number of the expeditionary troops, now about 15,000 strong, is to be raised to 20,000, and that measures are being taken to fill up vacancies and keep the effective force of each regiment to its full complement. Should the Chinese not come to terms, it is not thought that the operations of the war can be finished in one campaign. We are assured that the English intend seizing, in the first instance, on the island of Formosa, which is separated from the Chinese continent by the channel or strait of the same name. This island is a dependency of the Fou-kien province, which touches that of Kwang-Tung, of which Canton is the capital. The island is rich, fertile, and very healthy. Its chief town is Tai-wan; it has a Chinese garrison of about 12,000 men; it is a well-selected spot for the establishment of the depôts, magazines, and hospitals of an army. It is easy to form a strong establishment there. The court of Peking attaches great importance to the possession of Formosa."

THE WAR IN PERSIA.

WE have little news from or of Persia, except the arrival at Mahamrah of 10,000 Persians and the expected arrival of 18,000 more with seventeen guns, to reinforce the garrison already there. Meanwhile, the British are embarking slowly for future operations. The "Tehran Gazette" has published a truly Persian account of the battle of Kooshab. This story is full of wonderful things. First, the Persians are made to march towards the English, instead of from them, in the movement on Barazjoon. Then, the English, at the approach of the redoubted Sojah-ool-Moolk, are made to shelter themselves from the rain and the enemy "behind rocks and in caverns." Next, we have those skulking troops marching on Barazjoon, "pursued" by the Persians. Then, the English are made to explode their own instead of the Persian ammunition, in the retreat from Barazjoon, while the victorious enemy hangs on their rear. Finally, the rain forces the combatants to "separate," "leaving several pieces of cannon in the mud." As to the loss—"we are told that the English lost in the battle from 800 to 1000 men; our loss is from 300 to 600."

IRELAND.

DUBLIN CATTLE SHOW.—The annual cattle-show of the Dublin Agricultural Society was held on Wednesday week. In spite of a continuous rain, Lord Carlisle attended the show and stayed two hours in the yard. He also was present at the evening meeting. In a speech replying to a vote of thanks, he touched on the question of the murrain in a tone of warning; and endeavoured to soften the asperities provoked by the general election. "Confident I feel that the dogs and sedition of party business cannot be carried away by any more wholesome method of effluence than in the head by useful, and honourable calling of agriculture. Parties and governments may be subject to vicissitudes and change; but you, my lords and gentlemen, have the green soil of Ireland lying fresh beneath you,—firm and fresh beneath you. There it is—do justice to it, cultivate it, enrich it, adorn it—for you will find it ever ready to reward and repay the skill and industry which shall best develop its abounding resources."

MORE PROVISION RIOTS.—The exportation of potatoes has led to serious demonstrations in Galway, as well as in other parts of the kingdom. On Saturday morning, 200 Claddagh men marched towards the docks and broke into the store of a dealer, but they retired without doing material damage. They subsequently attacked other stores, but were dispersed by the police. Another account says that the mob made a personal attack on a Mr. Tierney, who is merely a contractor for supplying the workhouse. His store was broken open, his potatoes were scattered about, and he himself very roughly handled. The exportation of the food of the people, as a Galway paper observes, is unquestionably an evil at particular seasons, but it is one for which it would be difficult to provide a remedy.

THE MURDER IN QUEEN'S COUNTY.—We last week inserted an account of a murderous assault which was committed on Mr. Fennell, a gentleman residing in the Queen's County, by a returned convict named Carter. It was stated that the unfortunate man's life was despaired of; it is now announced by a Carlow paper that death has put an end to Mr. Fennell's sufferings.

SCOTLAND.

COAST DEFENCES.—Acting upon representations made during the late war, pointing out the great insecurity of the commercial ports of the United Kingdom, in the event of any desultory attack by an armed force or an enemy's cruisers, Lord Palmerston caused the subject to be inquired into; and a committee of officers recently visited Aberdeen, in order to report upon the necessary measures for its protection. Their report has been approved of; and his Lordship proposes that there should be a 9-gun battery commanding the bay; a 4-gun battery fronting the town; and one gun of the heaviest calibre commanding the approaches to the harbour. The Town-Council have granted sites about two acres will be required; at a merely nominal rental, to preserve the right of the town to the property.

A MYSTERIOUS DEPREDATOR.—Flocks of sheep, the property of different farmers in the neighbourhood of Jedburgh, Melrose, and Gushlath, have been visited in the pastures by what is supposed to be a beast of prey. The shepherds on various farms bear witness that they have seen it skulking at a distance, and affirm it to be a wolf. The general supposition is, that it has escaped from some travelling menagerie.

CONVENTION OF SCOTTISH BURGHS.—The annual Convention of the Scottish Burghs was held at Edinburgh on Tuesday and Wednesday of last week. The Lord Provost of Edinburgh in the chair. Some subjects of general interest were discussed. The Convention resolved to renew their memorial praying the Government to establish a Secretary of State for Scotland. They determined, by 24 to 18, to petition for the extension of the Registration of Voters Act to Scotland; and they expressed regret at the failure of the Lord Advocate's efforts to improve education, and urged him to new exertions. Mr. Duncan McLaren then moved, and the Provost of Dumfries seconded, a motion, "That the Convention petition Parliament for the assuilation of the law of Scotland to that of England as regards the right of forty-shilling freeholders to vote in the election of representatives for shires in Parliament." This led to a smart debate, in which Professor Aytoun led the opposition; and the familiar arguments on both sides were reproduced. Ultimately the "previous question" was carried, by 23 to 13.

THE TRIAL OF MISS MADGE LINE SMITH.—We learn that the trial of Miss Madeline Smith on the charge of poisoning M. L'Angelier will not take place during the sittings of the High Court next month, and that, owing to the difficulties attending the investigation, it is probable that the case will not come on till July.

MURDER.—The village of Daily, in the county of Ayr, has been the scene of an atrocious murder. A quarrel arose at a public-house betwixt a labourer named McCracken and a collier of the name of David Craig, and a fight ensued. McCracken drew a knife and stabbed Craig with it in seven different places, inflicting two fearful wounds on the throat, and, by a cut behind the ear, penetrating the jugular vein. McCracken has been apprehended, and lodged in Ayr prison.

THE PROVINCES.

A FATAL EXPERIMENT.—A young girl, thirteen years of age, lately visited the Devon county jail, in company with her master (a farmer) and mistress, and was shown, among other things, the place where culprits were hanged. When she arrived home she asked how hanging was effected, and her fellow-servants are reported to have described the process to her. She evinced considerable curiosity on the subject. A day or two ago she was discovered in an outhouse suspended by a rope to a rafter, and quite dead.

PAINFUL OCCURRENCE.—The wife of the Rev. Mr. Thompson, who resides at Brighton, on account of her health, left her own room in her night-dress, one morning last week, went up stairs into the room where her child was in bed, took the poor little thing up whilst it lay asleep, opened the window, and then made a fearful descent into the back yard below. She was picked up in a state of insensibility, and at present lies in a most precarious state. No bones are broken. The child was not much hurt.

THE LUND HILL EXPLOSION.—More bodies have been recovered from the Lund Hill pit. The removal and bringing to the surface of these corpses is a work of danger, and "volunteers" undertake it; some have bags of camphor placed on their breasts, in the belief that the heat of the body will surround the head with an atmosphere of camphor. The Jury are alarmed at the prospect of having to "view" the vast number of bodies; but the Coroner says it must be done, and the bodies be identified if possible.

LIGHTING OF MINES WITH GAS.—A most important work has recently been in progress at the Baleswidan Mine, Cornwall—the erection of g-works, the introduction of gas into the shafts and levels, and hence the superseding, to a considerable extent, of the old system of lighting by candles. Mr. Wright, C.E., of London, who contracted with the adventurers for the supply of gas, has recently been in the neighbourhood, and delivered a lecture to the agents and miners of Baleswidan on the subject.

COMMEMORATION OF SHAKESPEARE'S BIRTHDAY.—At Stratford-upon-Avon, on Thursday week, the Royal Shakespeare Club celebrated, with the customary festival, Shakespeare's birthday. Nothing was resolved upon as to the future protection of the property; but it is extremely probable that it will be covered with a huge glass shade, built in the Crystal Palace style. The cottages having been pulled down on either side of the old house, its appearance presented a ruinous and cheerless aspect.

SIR ROBERT PEEL AT BLACKBURN.—On Thursday week, the soirée of the members and friends of the Blackburn Mechanics' Institution was held in the large room of the Town Hall. The room was well filled, and Sir R. Peel, Bart., occupied the chair. Sir R. Peel was loudly cheered. In the course of his speech he said:—"Let them hope that Russia and England would no longer be harassing each other by the appliances of war, but turn their attention to the progress and advancement of civilisation. The moment peace was signed came out the scheme for Russian railways. He did not mean to say that was a good scheme; but it showed the desire that immediately embraced the public mind for promoting material civilisation. He thought that there could not be a worse scheme for the British than the Russian railways. They were only to cost £45,000,000 sterling, and John Bull was told that he would have a guarantee of five or six per cent.—which was very kind of Russia, seeing that we could have the same in England. But he believed the object in view was the military organisation of that country, and not the promotion of commercial progress."

BANQUET TO LORD-CHIEF-JUSTICE COCKBURN.—The public had hardly been reminded that for ten years the present Lord-Chief-Justice (of the Common Pleas) was the representative in Parliament of the borough of Southampton, but perhaps it is not so generally recollected that, some sixteen years since, he also filled the important judicial office of its Recorder. The Chamber of Commerce of that town, anxious that this double connection should not pass away without some ceremonial word at parting, determined to invite his Lordship to a public dinner. As a rule, the judges do not dine in public except at the Mansion House, but in this case the strict judicial etiquette was departed from, as not only did the Lord-Chief-Justice accept the invitation of his old constituents, but he was accompanied by Mr. Justice Williams and Mr. Baron Bramwell. The dinner was got up by a committee of the Chamber of Commerce. Amongst the company were men of all parties in the borough; and there were many present who, having opposed the Noble and Learned Lord at his successive elections, eagerly snatched at the opportunity of showing that, while they had differed from him as a politician, they esteemed him as a man. Covers were laid for eighty.

ATTEMPTED MURDER AND SUICIDE AT BRISTOL.—An Irish labourer, named John Cooney, residing in Steep Street, Bristol, was on Monday morning observed to take a hatchet from a cupboard in the kitchen, and carry it into the back-yard. Soon afterwards his wife sent her daughter out for some tea, when Cooney fetched the hatchet, and commenced a furious attack upon the poor woman, whom he left almost dead; he then ran down into the cellar, and cut his throat. It is stated that the deceased was a sober man, but had for some time been on bad terms with his wife, and moody and reserved towards his family.

"RATTENING."—At Sheffield, on Saturday night, a process locally called "rattening" was performed upon the house of a fisherman named Gillet. Rattening is a process of blowing it up with gunpowder. Gillet was sleeping with his wife when he heard a noise at the cellar grating; and presently a loud explosion which shook the whole building took place. The floor and walls of the sitting-room and kitchen, with the furniture they contained, were blown to pieces; and it was not without difficulty that Gillet and his wife made their way out of the ruins. A tin bottle, with the mouth blown off, was found in the cellar, and the explosion had no doubt been managed by fitting a fuse into the neck of the bottle, when filled with powder. The outrage is supposed to have been committed because Gillet refused to pay to the "union" connected with his trade. A man named Royston has been apprehended on suspicion.

A COURAGEOUS SERVANT GIRL.—Some burglars broke into the house occupied by a Mrs. Harrison, near Birkenhead, on Sunday morning. Hearing them enter, a maid-servant shouted, "Give me that blunderbuss, and I'll blow their brains out." A young man who lives in the house was thus awoken: he fired a pistol, which had the effect of frightening the intruders, who decamped without effects.

A FATAL MISTAKE.—Three women had been lodging at the Barrel Inn, Sheffield, a few nights ago; but the landlord, George Lovday, finding them disorderly, was at length obliged to order them out of the house. They turned and abused him, and he seems to have driven them pell-mell along the passage leading from the tap-room to the front of the house. This passage was quite dark. It happened that at this moment a Mrs. Bennett, a respectable woman also lodging in the house with her husband, entered the passage from the street; and in the confusion and darkness Lovday struck her a blow which felled her to the ground. Lovday soon discovered what an unhappy mistake he had made, and carried Mrs. Bennett into the tap-room. He said to her husband, who was sitting there, "George, it's a bad job, I have hit your wife by mistake." Bennett carried her away, when she exclaimed, "Oh my lad, I believe I am a murdered woman." She complained particularly of her forehead and the back of her head, and about half past twelve o'clock died. The unfortunate woman had been married to Bennett about two years.

A FORTNIGHT WITHOUT FOOD.—A man was recently found, lying on the ground in Stockton's Wood, near Liverpool. He was in a state of great exhaustion, and, on being removed to a house, he was attended by a surgeon, who found it necessary to cut off his boots, as his feet were swollen and gangrenous. From documents found on him, and from his own statements, it appeared that he is a native of one of the Bermuda Islands; that he is a captain, and had brought a ship to England, but that, some one having detained his certificate, he was reduced to great distress; that, being unable to pay his rent, he left the town, wandered about, and at length lay down in the wood; and that he had been there a fortnight and two days, occasionally eating a little grass, and drinking some water from a brook which ran close by. A day or two before he was found, he had written with pencil on a scrap of paper some lines to his friends in Bermuda. It is thought the unfortunate man will recover.

A MURDER IN THE NORTH.

WE briefly reported in the later editions of this paper, that Hector McDonald, a labourer, living in one of the islands on the coast of Argyshire, had been charged with killing his wife. The evidence consisted almost entirely of the testimony of the wife's mother, an old woman, and a widow named Christina McDonald, or Seston. Her account of the affair is so singular, and in some places even so grand, that we now give the greater part. It was given in Gaelic, through an interpreter. She said that her daughter Jane was between twenty-four and twenty-five years of age, had been married to the prisoner three years and a month, and had two children. Jane was a strong young woman and was in good health on the day before she died:—

"The prisoner and she did not agree. The younger child is now about a year old. Neither of the children are baptised, and prisoner denied that they were his children. Prisoner and his wife lived under the same roof with me—a wooden partition separated the two houses. That partition only reached to the top of the side walls, not to the roof of the house. The prisoner and his wife slept in their own end of the house, while I slept at the other. I have a son named John. He was sometimes, since last New Year's Day, sleeping in my house. It was a straw bed the prisoner and his wife slept on. The straw was spread on the ground, with eight stones laid along outside to keep the straw in its place. These stones were about the size of a man's hat. The prisoner was at home on the evening of the 12th of last February, where he generally was. His wife came home that evening about the time of lighting candles. She came home quite well, and took a small bowl full of supper, consisting of thin porridge, mase of wheals and oatmeal. That meal was not common to her; it was the first time she had taken it that year. Prisoner and his wife went to bed that night between eight and nine o'clock. I heard them asleep before going to bed. She said, 'Hector, keep the child (the younger), or else make the bed'; and then, shortly afterwards, 'Oh! you have killed the boy'; and he answered, 'Then raise or lift you the boy.' The wife said, 'Yes, I will do so when I bring down the crutzie (light), from my mother's.' He then got up, and put his back to the end of his own house, and said, 'You have said to many a person that I have thrashed you; say the fourth part again, and — to my soul I will crush you.' After they went to bed, I went to bed also. There was a door which entered directly through the partition from the one house to the other. I was sitting in my own house when I heard the conversation referred to, and the door was open."

The old woman and McDonald had some angry conversation previous to their going to bed, the former telling the latter that she would get some trustworthy people in the house to bear witness against him with respect to his violence to his wife. He answered, "Little do I care what you do, old woman. Go away and seek them; the door is open." On going to bed, the old woman took the elder of her grandchildren with her; the younger slept with its parents. In the course of the night, there was more quarrelling between Hector and his wife; but, a little after twelve o'clock, they became quiet, and the old woman fell asleep.

"About daybreak, I heard a noise as if the outer door had fallen down. I remained in bed till I heard a second sound or stroke like a heavy bag falling out of a cart on to the ground. This noise came from the floor of the prisoner's house, and from where the straw bed was. The house has an earthen floor. I got up and went to the prisoner's end of the house, and opened the partition door, and there saw the prisoner standing on the floor with his shoes, trousers, and braces on. I don't know whether he had those on when he went to bed, but if he had it was unusual. He had his wife (my daughter) in his arms, with her shift on, and his hands were either at her throat or opposite her heart, I cannot say which. Her head rested on his left shoulder, and his head leant over her head, and she had a small shawl on her head. I said, 'O God! what is here?' My daughter made no answer. The prisoner said, 'Jane has fallen.' I asked, 'O God! what is here?' as my heart was frightened from the language he had used before going to bed. I said to him, 'Let go my daughter,' and he answered me 'I won't.' Then my son John, who was behind me, said, 'Let go Jane, Hector, or, let her go, Hector.' Prisoner then let her go, and she fell down on the floor. (Here the old woman came out of the witness box to the centre of the court floor in front of the bench to give practical illustration of the manner in which her daughter had fallen on the night in question. She there made a staggering circular movement, fell softly on the court floor on her face, and uttered a low deep moan. The solemn and dramatic effect of the scene made a profound impression on the court.) My daughter did not rise till my son John and I raised her, and John said, 'Hector, come and help us; we cannot raise her; she is heavy'; and the prisoner did come to help us. When we lifted her, prisoner wished her put into his own bed, but I refused, and we took her into my bed in my apartment. John and I carried her there, and I cannot say whether Hector assisted us or not, but he was there. We laid her down on her side in my bed. I put my tongue to her throat to feel if she was breathing, and I took the shawl off her face and her eyes were coming out, as if they were started out of their sockets; and I pushed them back with both my hands. I said, 'Dearest of women, if you can speak, and have your senses, do so. It is in your mother's two arms that you are.' When I said this, she four times opened and shut her lips with a very slight smack, and I put my ear to her mouth, and she muttered softly, 'Coup! Gaelic, coup, and I thought she wanted water. I gave her about half a cupful of water. I put it into her mouth, but I do not think any of it went over, as it ran out of her mouth. About two minutes after this, she pressed the points of her fingers very tightly together, and muttered something like, 'My poor children!' She appeared to die then, and said no more. I think from the time she was carried 'ben' till the time she died, would be about ten minutes. It was daylight at the time she died. The prisoner was then in his own end of the house. I said to my son John, 'Go for my sister, for Jane is dead'; and prisoner said, 'If you will let me up, I will know whether she is dead or not.' I said 'How will you know whether she is dead or not better than I do?' and he said, 'I will know'; and I said, 'Come down, then.' Prisoner felt her throat, and then he lifted his hands and exclaimed, 'Oh, what she is dead. I will go into the sea.' I said, 'You will not go out into the sea. You will remain and take care of your two sons. They require nursing, and I cannot attend to them; I am too weak. I require to be nursed myself to-day.'"

McDonald afterwards held the body while the old woman's sister washed it. He desired to have the body buried the next day. The medical evidence of Dr. Wilson confirmed the account given of the death of McDonald's wife, and showed clearly that it must have resulted from throttling by some person other than herself. The jury found the accused Guilty of culpable homicide, and he was sentenced to transportation for life.

THE CAIRO AND SUEZ RAILWAY.

THE accompanying engraving will recall the attention of our readers to the railway now in course of construction across the desert of Suez, and of which we furnished some illustrations in a previous number of the "Illustrated Times" (No. 85), with information as to its origin and prospects. The obstacles encountered in the progress of such a work are of course rather few and far between. The construction of a railway in a country divided by

niation with the Chinese Government, get there as soon as possible, and not to take new steps of a hostile character—that is, acts of general hostility to the Chinese—before we see the effect produced by his arrival. Sir James Brooke has a kind of independent position as a potentate in the archipelago, and against his reprisals we have nothing to say; but we strongly deprecate the idea that a war ought to be hurried on before Lord Elgin's arrival; forced on, in fact, by officials there in a way which would at once supersede that nobleman's mission, and stultify the vote of the last House of Commons.

There is danger of this, because, in foreign affairs, there is always some danger where there is Palmerston. With all his parts, his pluck, his pride in England, this is the danger of his administration. He is too likely to carry matters with the aforesaid "high hand," and so to involve us in a war where another man might get us off with a negotiation; and he is all the more likely to try this now, when the country seems determined to demand from him those political reforms which he does not love, and those social reforms which he scarcely understands.

At present, then, as our readers will guess, we are scarcely prepared for a forcible seizure of Canton. This measure has been advocated by Sir John Davis, for the amusement of that excellent scientific society, the "Geographical." Sir John, as his book published some years since shows, has a good knowledge of the people and the place; and we agree with him, so far, that vigorous measures should be taken to suppress piracy. This curse of all opening commerce prevails extensively on the Chinese coast just now, and is favoured by the fact that Canton river is full of small creeks. Against pirates in creeks let us by all means employ gun-boats without ceremony; but do not let us seize Canton at a sloop, while we absolutely have an envoy en route to negotiate with the Chinese peaceably! Besides, after all, there is more favourable testimony to the Chinese than that of Sir John Davis, from good authority. At the same meeting where he delivered the stern observations above referred to, Mr. Crauford, who lived among the Chinese for many years, "bore testimony to their generally orderly conduct." He likewise reminded us that the trade with them amounted to £15,000,000—a trade not to be imperilled or interrupted, one would hope, by any more violence than can be helped.

To conclude. We want to see a firm, moderate policy—neither bullying nor cringing—adopted towards China; and we want to see any great ulterior measures delayed till there is time to learn the result of Lord Elgin's mission—trusting meanwhile to our officers on the station to keep order without more ado than is required. We shall reserve our right, of course, to form new decisions when news from Lord Elgin arrive. But a moderate policy for the present best suits our character abroad, and will leave us free to pursue necessary reforms at home.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The reception of the Grand Duke Constantine and his attendants at Marseilles was of a very splendid character; Toulouhen was particularly cheered. The Grand Duke was to arrive in Paris on Thursday.

A grand review is to take place on the 6th of May. It will comprise all the troops of the guard and the army of Paris, or, in infantry and cavalry, 50,000 men.

The installation of Cardinal Morlot as the 14th archbishop of Paris took place on Saturday at Notre Dame.

Lord Cowley was to leave Paris for London, in order, as some say, to be present at the opening of Parliament. Another version of the cause of his departure is the necessity of attending to business connected with the patent of his lordship. A Belgian paper says that the real reason for the withdrawal of the English Ambassador is a desire to avoid the Grand Duke Constantine; this is of course absurd.

Dr. Hale, chaplain to the British Embassy, expired suddenly on Sunday morning in an epileptic fit; he was apparently in perfect health on Saturday, and had not complained of indisposition. Some months before he had been seized with a similar fit, but recovered. Dr. Hale was formerly British chaplain at Versailles and St. Germain-en-Laye, and had been attached to the British Embassy for the last six years.

A man, named Masseot, has been tried by the Tribunal of Correctional Police for using seditious language. On the night of the 6th of February he ran up a score at a public-house, and left without paying it; and he sang seditious songs, for which he was arrested. On being searched, a letter was found on him proposing to him to join a secret society formed for the purpose of assassination. He offered to reveal the existence of a secret society, of from sixty to eighty persons, if he was set at liberty, but his offer was not accepted. He therefore refused to say anything about the letter, but there is some reason to suppose that it was written by himself. He was proved to be a bad character, and to have been frequently in prison. He was sentenced to two years' imprisonment and to fifty francs' fine.

The provincial journals have been ordered not to allude in any way to the forthcoming elections until the electoral colleges shall be convoked. Prince Danilo, of Montenegro, has left Paris for Vienna.

Count de Paar, the Austrian ambassador, who took his departure from Turin on the occasion of the diplomatic rupture between Austria and Sardinia, has arrived in Paris.

SPAIN.

The Carlist Conspiracy which we reported in our last number, is made very light of by later correspondents. It has been imputed to police intrigues set on foot by Narvaez for the purpose of frightening the Queen!

The King and Queen are said to be in open warfare; and scandalous stories are related to account for their quarrels. The Queen is near her confinement.

The Cortes was to be opened on the 1st of May. An abstract of the Queen's Speech has appeared. It announces the re-establishment of a good understanding between Spain and Rome, and the renewal of friendly relations with the Court of Russia. The hope is expressed that the difference with Mexico will be amicably settled, but not unless the honour of Spain is satisfied, and an indemnity paid to those who have suffered. The speech also proposes a series of political and social reforms.

An armed band of sixteen men have been arrested in the neighbourhood of the town of Haro, and, strange to say, one of them proved to be blind. Whilst some accounts say they were Carlist insurgents, others represent them as bandits.

The "Madrid Gazette" of the 23rd ult. contains a curious circular from the Minister of Grace and Justice to the provincial authorities, directing them to put an end to the custom which has lately arisen of delivering speeches, reciting pieces of poetry, &c., over the graves of deceased persons, either after or in the midst of the funeral service.

PRUSSIA AND SWITZERLAND.

At the late Conference on the Neuchâtel affair, it seems that the four Powers, Great Britain, France, Austria and Russia, offered the following proposition:—The King of Prussia to take, if he pleases, the title of Prince of Neuchâtel, but the treaty to contain no stipulation to that effect; Switzerland to pay an indemnity of 1,000,000 francs; and the revision of the constitution of Neuchâtel, though opposed by the King, to be effected without delay. The proposition has been referred to the governments of Prussia and of Neuchâtel, which latter is said to have accepted it.

RUSSIA.

The breach between the Russian and Austrian governments seems to be widening. The language of the Russian journals is "harsher than harsh,"

whenever it is the question of Austria. The "Invalid," the organ of the Minister of War, foretells that Sardinia will have a great future, and makes sundry remarks which are anything but flattering to the pride and self-love of the Austrians, who are of opinion that they could swallow up Sardinia without experiencing the slightest inconvenience from the meal. According to the "Northern Bee," it is well that France and England have interfered to prevent a hostile collision between Austria and Piedmont, "for, as things now stand in Europe, a war between those States might necessitate other Powers to take a share in the struggle." Such a sentence as that quoted would not deserve attention had it appeared in an independent paper, but it is somewhat significant in an organ of the Russian government.

The Russian Government has just decreed that shares in the great Russian Railway Company (which has been going a begging through Europe) shall be received at par, like the funds of the State, for all caution money or public deposits. This favour is looked upon as of greater value, as the funds which are deposited in this way are very considerable, and the contractors are in the habit of paying a high premium to procure securities for the purpose.

The Government, it is said, proposes to abolish the regulations relative to the sojourn of Russians in foreign countries. At present no Russian can stay abroad more than three years; if at the expiration of that period he does not return, he is liable to the sequestration of his property. But it is now said that all Russian subjects are to be allowed to stay abroad for an unlimited period, until, in fact, reasons of State shall render their recall necessary.

ITALY.

The breach between Austria and Sardinia remains open, but there seems to be an inclination on both sides to heal it. Much has been said about the projected camp of 20,000 men to be formed at Alessandria: on the one hand that it will, and on the other that it will, not be formed.

Several of the Piedmontese journals have announced that Austria, as a set-off to this camp, was about to construct forts on the frontier of Piedmont; but it seems that all she means to do is to build, in advance of Verona, the two forts of St. Lucia, the construction of which was decided on long ago.

Grand military manoeuvres are now going on in the Champ de Mars at Naples for the infantry, and in the Champ de Mars at Capua for the cavalry. The King and the Duke de Calabria, as well as the Count de Trapani, the Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Guard, are present at them. Ferdinand II. frequently commands the troops.

The King of Naples has prohibited country students from enrolling themselves in the Naples University. The measure has excited immense dissatisfaction.

During the last fortnight loud subterranean noises have been heard near Vesuvius, as well as violent explosions in the interior of the crater; and according to the guides an eruption may be shortly expected.

The King of Bavaria has since his arrival visited all the curiosities in the neighbourhood of Naples. Excavations are to be made in his presence at Pompeii.

According to a despatch recently received at Vienna from Count Colloredo, Austrian Ambassador at Rome, the Pontifical government is actively engaged in introducing the reforms pointed out in the first Conference at Paris as best calculated to calm the public mind. The preparatory labours are already so far advanced that the measures may be shortly carried into effect. It is only on the question of the formation of native troops that the Holy See finds great difficulty, partly arising from the repugnance felt by the inhabitants of the States of the Church to serve in the army. We hear that "The Austrian troops at Bologna and Ferrara cannot therefore be very shortly removed, as their withdrawal depends entirely on the formation of a Pontifical army."

TURKEY AND THE EAST.

The Porte has sent Ferhad Pacha and Ismail Pacha to reside, the former at Broussa, and the latter at Ismid, for being concerned in the affair of the *Kangaroo*.

According to the last advices from the Principalities, the Turks were evacuating those countries, and the principal Boyards were in accord with the Moldo-Wallachian patriots in demanding the union of the two provinces under a foreign Prince as vassal of the Porte. Prince Ghika, the representative of Turkey, favours, it is said, this movement. It is thought that he will be disavowed. The Moldavian Government, it is said, intends to postpone the election till the 1st of June.

Some letters put into the Post-office at Constantinople for Canea, in Candia, having been opened, and amongst them three intended for the Austrian consul, that functionary has sent in a protest.

AMERICA.

The China question has excited much attention throughout the Union. As will be seen from an article in another column, Mr. Reed has accepted the mission to China, and was to start about the middle of May, having previously had conference with Lord Palmerston and the Emperor Napoleon. General Cass's reply to Lord Napier on the Chinese question was delivered on the 11th inst. While it declines a political and military alliance with England and France, the American government, it is said, will use its best endeavours to gain the common ends proposed by both nations.

There was a fire at Baltimore on the 14th, which destroyed to the amount of half a million dollars.

The United States government have consented to pay 300,000 dollars to the government of Denmark for the abolition of the Sound Dues.

Advices from Grey Town represent that Colonel Lockridge had captured Castille, beating the Costa Ricans, with trifling loss to his own force, and had without delay effected a junction with General Walker. There is no news from Walker's headquarters.

Mr. Buchanan and his cabinet, scandalised at the immoralities of the Latter Day Saints, are about to attempt a revolution among them. It is proposed to send to Utah a military force of 2,500 men, officered by persons of character, who have families; and judges and executive officers of worth and high standing, and also "family men," are to be appointed in place of Brigham Young and his satellites. Mr. Drummond has resigned the office of Justice of the Supreme Court of Utah territory. He draws a terrible picture of life in Utah.

INDIA.

SEPOY DISAFFECTION.

The government has resolved to punish the 19th Regiment of Native Infantry—that concerned in the mutiny at Barrackpore. It has been ordered to Barrackpore, where it will be disbanded. The sentence is not without a certain severity. Every native officer loses his commission. Every old sepoy loses his pension, and, as the Company only receives recruits up to a certain age, his bread. The younger men will cross over to Bombay and enlist there. But it is feared that this sentence is inadequate. Another mutiny has broken out, this time among the Madras troops at Vizieragram. The Madrasese have no caste, and their discontent must therefore proceed from other causes than the caste order. The probability is, that we are at this moment passing through one of those periodical storms which every now and then remind us that our government in India "sits on bayonets." The Sepoys are restless and dissatisfied. They have no particular grievances, no particular leaders, no particular wants. A war would at once remove every symptom of disaffection. But they are idle, and brood, like all Asiatics, over imaginary wrongs and absurd reports till they are ready for anything, no matter what, that will break the feverish monotony of their lives.

Mr. C. E. Boileau, Deputy Commissioner of Goudah, in Oode, has been murdered. He had displayed much energy in hunting the dacoit Frusyl Ali into Nepal, but failed to arrest him. He was riding quietly through his district, attended by only four horsemen, when he was attacked by Frusyl Ali and his followers. Mr. Boileau and his horsemen were cut to pieces, and his head subsequently carried into Secrota. The act has no political significance whatever. Frusyl Ali is simply a bandit, whom the police have been unable to catch.

A most important despatch has been received from home on the subject of the Madras tenure. The survey of the entire Presidency has been

sanctioned. The Ryotwari system is to be modified, or rather abolished, and the Khetwar introduced. "Khetwar" means field settlement, and is so called because the assessment is placed upon each field. The owner, whoever he may be, is liable for the tax, and nothing else, his right of property while he pays it being perfect. The advantage of the change is, that as land rises in value capitalists may buy field after field, and turn the ryot into a labourer on weekly wages. In other words, the Irish system may be gradually superseded by the English; we get rid of the pauper proprietary, and land once more acquires a value.

The Government has just published a notification asserting that on the 31st of December the cash balance in the treasuries throughout India amounted to 2,65,96,000 rupees, or say 12½ millions sterling.

The cholera broke out in a wing of her Majesty's 43rd Foot, while en route from Bangalore to Madras. It lost altogether thirty-two men, two women, and nine children.

THE CHINESE WAR.

THE FLEET AND THE CANTONESE.

DESPATCHES from Hong Kong to March 15th, have arrived. The following extract from the "China Mail" of that date represents the general state of affairs at Hong Kong when the mail left:—

"Affairs in the Canton river have been very quiet for some time past. The imperialist junks are in great force. In the entrance of Fatshan Creek an attempt was made to dislodge them by the *Encounter*, small steamers, and boats of the squadron, on the 28th February, which failed, the *Encounter* not being able to get within 2,700 yards of the nearest junks, her bow pivot gun alone being able to reach them. The steamers *Hong Kong* and *Forbes* were a few hundred yards in advance, and kept up a hot fire with admirable precision, by which three of the junks were silenced. The firing was kept up on both sides for upwards of two hours, when, as if by mutual consent, there was a 'cessation of hostilities.' Shots from the junks reached the *Encounter*, and cut away some of her rigging; they also dropped plentifully round the boats, but fortunately without injuring the crews. The Chinese are now fortifying the approaches to Fatshan, and sinking barriers.

"The Cantonese have not as yet commenced re-building the suburbs or forts. They have contented themselves by digging in salt into the soil of the Factory gardens, and making a few small batteries on the left bank of the river below the ruins of the French Folly. Not a boat is to be seen in Elliot Passage, which is exposed to the guns of the *Encounter*, *Comus*, *Acon*, *Elk*, and *Barracouta*. Whampoa is still in a deserted state. The *Nankin* crew have been busily employed in destroying the South Fort, and this, the main branch of the river to Canton, is in the possession of Sir M. Seymour.

"Admiral Sir Michael is always on the *qui vive*; constantly on the river between this place and Canton, inspecting, instructing, and occasionally attacking; while Sir John Bowring is quietly taking his daily siesta, resting upon the laurels he has acquired from his first active debut in London.

"The storehouse of Mr. Duddell, the government contractor at Hong Kong, has been burnt down, with the destruction of some 700 barrels of flour, a particularly inconvenient circumstance at the present time, to say nothing of the actual loss.

MASSACRE ON BOARD THE STEAMER "QUEEN."

On Monday, the 23rd of February, as the *Queen* steamer was on her way from Hong Kong to Macao, and when the officers and European passengers were at dinner, the Chinese passengers, with the crew, amounting in all to about thirty-five, turned one of the cannon placed in the gangway into the cabin door, and fired its contents (grapeshot) among the Europeans there, consisting of the captain and engineer; Mr. Cleverly, late marine surveyor of Wampoa and Canton; Mr. Weir, late chief engineer to the *Sir Charles Forbes*, and two or three Portuguese with their wives. The captain received a blow on the head, and immediately jumped overboard. The two engineers would not fight, and were killed by the Chinamen; the Portuguese hid themselves under the table. Mr. Cleverly's thigh-bone was broken by a grape-shot from the first discharge of the cannon; notwithstanding which he kept the savages at bay with a revolver for about twenty minutes, shooting two or three of them when they tried to enter the after cabin, where he was. When he had no further means of resistance he threw a bamboo chair from the cabin window, stripped off his clothes, and jumped into the water, where he remained for an hour-and-a-half, clinging to the chair, and was ultimately picked up by a lorch bound to Macao.

The *Queen* had on board about 120 chests of opium, besides other cargo. She has been taken to Chum-Chune, and is there at anchor, surrounded by a fleet of fifty-seven mandarin junks; her female passengers are reported to be alive and well.

REVOLT OF CHINESE COOLIES.

The Peruvian ship *Carmen* left Swatow on the 1st of March with 200 Chinese coolies for Callao. During the passage down the China Sea, some time at night, the coolies rose en masse, but were driven below and the hatches closed. The coolies secured down below set fire to the ship, which was soon a mass of flames. The crew took to the boats. At this time some of the coolies had managed to force the hatchways, and were observed passing up the rigging, but the masts shortly afterwards fell over into the sea. The boat in which was the captain returned to the vessel to get a sail; but just as it reached the ship the latter went down, and the boat must have been taken down with the sinking ship, as nothing was afterwards seen of the captain or the people in the boat, although the mate remained close by for nearly four hours. The mate's boat got into Singapore. The greater part of the coolies must have been suffocated by the smoke—all perished, except an interpreter.

On Wednesday, the 11th of March, the *Gulnare*, a British ship, 1,100 tons register, left Swatow, with coolie passengers for Havanah. At 7.15 A.M., on the following morning, the coolies in a body attacked the third mate and sentry in the fore part of the ship. The captain, officers, and crew immediately rescued the third mate and sentry, but not before they were severely wounded. The coolies fought with fearful desperation, and were fairly cut to pieces before they were driven below. Finding they could not regain the deck, the coolies broke up their berths and set the ship on fire in the main, mizen, and poop and hatchways, but the leaders in the incendiarism being shot down, the others extinguished the fires. The third mate and sentry were the only two of the crew who were seriously wounded. Twenty-seven coolies were killed or wounded—ten killed, three drowned, and fourteen wounded. Some afterwards jumped overboard. The *Gulnare* arrived at Singapore on the 14th of March.

ATTACK ON AN AMERICAN SCHOONER.

The American schooner *Garland* was lying off the Bogue Forts, when a Mandarin came on board to make some purchases from the cargo. In the course of conversation with the captain, the Mandarin said that the Chinese knew no difference between the English and American flags, and that 7,000 dollars were paid by the Government for each vessel captured. Subsequently, when the schooner had run about five miles from the Bogue, two Chinese who were on board attempted to seize her. The captain was standing by the main rigging, the mate and one sailor near to him, and two European sailors aloft, when the two Chinese, with a sword in each hand, attacked the captain and mate. A blow was aimed at the captain's neck, which a heavy coat collar protected; but the blow was so severe as to stun him. A Chinese sailor, seeing the captain attacked, rushed to his rescue with his sheath-knife, and holding up his left arm to protect his head, received a blow which cut him to the bone, but instantly drove his knife to the hilt in the assassin's breast, and he fell overboard. The Chinaman who attacked the mate, finding he was left alone, jumped overboard; several shots were fired at him in the water, and it is thought that he perished.

INSURRECTION IN SARAWAK.

A large body, numbering about 200 Chinese, came down the river at Sarawak, on and before the 17th of February, and at midnight commenced a most determined attack on the Government people and property. They first secured possession of the two forts, one below and the other above the town of Kuchin (the seat of Rajah Brooke's authority) which were garrisoned by only twelve men, and furnished themselves with all the arms and ammunition in the forts. This was at midnight. One party then made an attack on the residence of Sir James Brooke, whilst the remainder assaulted the houses of Mr. Crookshank, the magistrate, and Mr.

Middleton, also a government official. While the Chinese attacked the front of the Rajah's house, Sir James Brooke succeeded in escaping down the bath-room, and afterwards swimming across a creek near his house, by which means he succeeded in gaining the Malay village. The assailants fired into Sir James Brooke's residence, killed Mr. Nicolet, a visitor, by a spear wound, and then plundered and set fire to the building. At the house of Mr. Crookshank the assailants met with a firm resistance, but that gentleman was overpowered. Mrs. Crookshank was brutally wounded before his eyes, and dragged away when he was no longer able to defend her. Mrs. Crookshank was believed to have been killed, but happily next morning she was found alive in the jungle. Her wounded body was covered with cocoa-nut leaves. She was removed to the Mission House, where, at the date of the last advices, she was doing well. Mr. Crookshank escaped to Sir J. Brooke's, badly wounded. Mr. Middleton's house was also attacked and fired; two of his children perishing in the flames. Mrs. Middleton hid in a bakery till the burning rafters fell about her, and, from her concealment, saw the assailants kicking about the head of her eldest child. The youngest child was murdered and thrown into the flames, where Mr. Wellington's remains were likewise consumed, his head borne off in triumph alone attesting his previous murder. Mr. Wellington was on a visit at Middleton's. The Government treasury was plundered of all it contained—a considerable sum, as nearly every European had placed his money there for safety.

Next day the Chinese Kangsi stated that they had no hostile intentions against any one but persons connected with the government; and it was arranged that they should depart, unmolested by the Malays, with the plunder they had obtained; at four p.m. they started up the river in their canoes.

On Sunday, February 22, Sir James Brooke received intelligence of the retirement of the Chinese, whereupon he returned to the Sarawak River, but before he could land the Chinese Kangsi had a second time ventured down the river in great force (between 500 and 600). The return of the Chinese in such large numbers compelled the Rajah to retire or venture a collision with an inadequate force. In the meantime the Kangsi people began to commit further depredations on the government property. Sir James Brooke and his party at once proceeded in a steamer to Kuchin, and soon succeeded in driving the miscreants out of the town. The larger numbers of those driven from the town were finally either cut off by the Dyaks, or were starved in the jungle. At the outset, about 100 of the Chinese were killed. Still they were undaunted; they ventured an attack in five prahus, ravaging the banks of the river. This was on the 9th of March. At Tangah Lidah (the junction of two rivers), about fifteen miles above Kuchin, they landed, and constructed a stockade, which they armed with four guns, and garrisoned by about 250 men with muskets, &c. Believing themselves to be secure, the Chinese very foolishly neglected to secure their boats, which were captured by their opponents. The Datto Bundar, who was stationed here, proceeded to Kuchin in a small canoe-boat for assistance; and on the 10th of March returned with two large prahus, and some Dyak bangkongs as a reserve. Thus strengthened, the Datto made a dash at the Chinese stockade, and carried the place. The Chinese in the stockade were cut to pieces; in half an hour they lost from 100 to 120 men. The rest, having lost their boats, took to the jungle. A panic seized the Kangsi people, and, on the night of the 11th of March, they were in full retreat towards Sambas, closely followed by bands of Malays, who availed themselves of every opportunity to cut off the stragglers. The Chinese retired in a close body, which their assailants failed to disorder; and they made a desperate resistance, in the presence of their wives and children. As it is, however, they are driven into the jungle, where a vast number of them must perish from want and exposure.

According to the most moderate estimate, at least 2,000 Chinese have been killed, while all the flourishing settlements of the Chinese (except at Kuchin) have been destroyed. On inquiry amongst the chieftains who acted against the Chinese, it was found that their loss did not exceed twelve Malays and Dyaks. The loss by these outrages chiefly falls on Sir James Brooke and the government people.

The immediate cause of this attempt is stated to be the stringent measures which Sir James Brooke has found it expedient to adopt to prevent opium smuggling.

THE UNITED STATES AND CHINA.

The American administration (says the "New York Herald") have nominated William B. Reed, a prominent commercial lawyer of Philadelphia, to the post of Minister to China. Mr. Reed will not proceed, it is believed, directly to China. At the suggestion of Lord Napier, it is expected that he will sail to England, and consult with the Governments of France and England in reference to their policy in China; having obtained all the light they have to offer, he will proceed by the overland route as far as Aden, where the United States squadron will be in waiting to receive, and forward him to his destination. The basis on which Mr. Reed's instructions are framed is careful and sound. The administration, addressed by the Ambassadors of France and England on the subject of the late troubles in China, and solicited to afford them as large a measure of co-operation as was consistent with national policy, have replied in an elaborate despatch, prepared by Mr. Cass. This document, in a kind and friendly manner, expresses the sympathy which the President feels for the cause which must be promoted by the success of the English; but at the same time adverts to the traditional policy of the Republic in steering clear of entangling alliances, and foreign wars. It is not the intention of Mr. Buchanan, says this despatch, to depart from this policy of non-interference, and he must therefore decline to co-operate in a military, or naval, or political sense, with the maritime Powers of Europe in prosecuting hostilities against the Chinese. But, as this country possesses large interests in China, and carries on an extensive trade with that part of the world, the President conceives that he is justified in co-operating peacefully with the European Powers in endeavouring to induce the Chinese to relax their rule of exclusion, and to admit foreigners to every part of their country. This Mr. Reed is directed to do, and for the better fulfilment of his purpose, he will be provided with a naval force sufficient to impose upon the coast, and, if necessary, to protect the lives and property of our people in that meridian. The main reason why we require to send out a new Minister to China, and to arm him with peculiar powers, is that our treaty expired by limitation on the 3rd of July, 1856. Mr. Reed will thus find the ground clear. It is to be hoped that he will be able to, obtain from the Chinese not only permission to trade to all parts of the coast without hindrance, but to penetrate the country, and build railroads, telegraphs, and steam machinery wherever the people can pay for them.

A FRENCH ACCOUNT OF THE CHINESE EXPEDITION.—The "Pays" contains the following:—"It appears that the number of the expeditionary troops, now about 15,000 strong, is to be raised to 20,000, and that measures are being taken to fill up vacancies and keep the effective force of each regiment to its full complement. Should the Chinese not come to terms, it is not thought that the operations of the war can be finished in one campaign. We are assured that the English intend seizing, in the first instance, on the island of Formosa, which is separated from the Chinese continent by the channel or strait of the same name. This island is a dependency of the Fou-kien province, which touches that of Kwang-Tung, of which Canton is the capital. The island is rich, fertile, and very healthy. Its chief town is Tai-wan; it has a Chinese garrison of about 12,000 men; it is a well-selected spot for the establishment of the depôts, magazines, and hospitals of an army. It is easy to form a strong establishment there. The court of Peking attaches great importance to the possession of Formosa."

THE WAR IN PERSIA.

We have little news from or of Persia, except the arrival at Mahamah of 10,000 Persians and the expected arrival of 18,000 more with seventeen guns, to reinforce the garrison already there. Meanwhile, the British are embarking slowly for future operations. The "Teheran Gazette" has published a truly Persian account of the battle of Kooshab. This story is full of wonderful things. First, the Persians are made to march towards the English, instead of from them, in the movement on Burazjoon. Then, the English, at the approach of the redoubted Sojah-ool-Moolk, are made to shelter themselves from the rain and the enemy "behind rocks and in caverns." Next, we have those skulking troops marching on Burazjoon, "pursued" by the Persians. Then, the English are made to explode their own instead of the Persian ammunition, in the retreat from Burazjoon while the victorious enemy hangs on their rear. Finally, the rain forces the combatants to "separate," "leaving several pieces of cannon in the mud." As to the loss—"we are told that the English lost in the battle from 800 to 1000 men; our loss is from 300 to 600."

IRELAND.

DUBLIN CATTLE SHOW.—The annual cattle-show of the Dublin Agricultural Society was held on Wednesday week. In spite of a continuous rain, Lord Carlisle attended the show and stayed two hours in the yard. He also was present at the evening meeting. In a speech replying to a vote of thanks, he touched on the question of the murrain in a tone of warning; and endeavored to soften the asperities provoked by the general election. "Confident I feel that the dogs and sediments of party business cannot be carried away by any more wholesome method of effluence than in the healthy, useful, and honourable calling of agriculture. Parties and governments may be subject to vicissitudes and change; but you, my lords and gentlemen, have the green soil of Ireland lying fresh beneath you,—firm and fresh beneath you. There it is—do justice to it, cultivate it, enrich it, adorn it—for you will find it ever ready to reward and repay the skill and industry which shall best develop its abounding resources."

MORE PROVISION RIOTS.—The exportation of potatoes has led to serious demonstrations in Galway, as well as in other parts of the kingdom. On Saturday morning, 200 Claddagh men marched towards the docks and broke into the store of a dealer, but they retired without doing material damage. They subsequently attacked other stores, but were dispersed by the police. Another account says that the mob made a personal attack on a Mr. Tierney, who is merely a contractor for supplying the workhouse. His store was broken open, his potatoes were scattered about, and he himself very roughly handled. The exportation of the food of the people, as a Galway paper observes, is unquestionably an evil at particular seasons, but it is one for which it would be difficult to provide a remedy.

THE MURDER IN QUEEN'S COUNTY.—We last week inserted an account of a murderous assault which was committed on Mr. Fennell, a gentleman residing in the Queen's County, by a returned convict named Carter. It was stated that the unfortunate man's life was despoiled of; it is now announced by a Carlow paper that death has put an end to Mr. Fennell's sufferings.

SCOTLAND.

COAST DEFENCES.—Acting upon representations made during the late war, pointing out the great insecurity of the commercial ports of the United Kingdom, in the event of any desultory attack by an armed force or an enemy's cruisers, Lord Palmerston caused the subject to be inquired into; and a committee of officers recently visited Aberdeen, in order to report upon the necessary measures for its protection. Their report has been approved of; and his Lordship proposes that there should be a 9-gun battery commanding the bay; a 4-gun battery fronting the town; and one gun of the heaviest calibre commanding the approaches to the harbour. The Town-Council have granted sites (about two acres will be required) at a merely nominal rental, to preserve the right of the town to the property.

A MYSTERIOUS DEPRIVATOR.—Flocks of sheep, the property of different farmers in the neighbourhood of Jedburgh, Melrose, and Galashiels, have been visited in the pastures by what is supposed to be a beast of prey. The shepherds on various farms bear witness that they have seen it skulking at a distance, and affirm it to be a wolf. The general supposition is, that it has escaped from some travelling menagerie.

CONVENTION OF SCOTTISH BURGHS.—The annual Convention of the Scottish Burghs was held at Edinburgh on Tuesday and Wednesday of last week. The Lord Provost of Edinburgh was in the chair. Some subjects of general interest were discussed. The Convention resolved to renew their memorial praying the Government to establish a Secretary of State for Scotland. They determined, by 24 to 18, to petition for the extension of the Registration of Voters Act to Scotland; and they expressed regret at the failure of the Lord Advocate's efforts to improve education, and urged him to new exertions. Mr. Duncan McLaren then moved, and the Provost of Dumfries seconded, a motion, "That the Convention petition Parliament for the assimilation of the law of Scotland to that of England as regards the right of forty-shilling freeholders to vote in the election of representatives for shires in Parliament." This led to a smart debate, in which Professor Aytoun led the opposition; and the familiar arguments on both sides were reproduced. Ultimately the "previous question" was carried, by 22 to 13.

THE TRIAL OF MISS MADLINE SMITH.—We learn that the trial of Miss Madeline Smith on the charge of poisoning Mr. L'Angelier will not take place during the sittings of the High Court next month, and that, owing to the difficulties attending the investigation, it is probable that the case will not come on till July.

MURDER.—The village of Dailly, in the county of Ayr, has been the scene of an atrocious murder. A quarrel arose at a public-house betwixt a labourer named McCracken and a collier of the name of David Craig, and a fight ensued. McCracken drew a knife and stabbed Craig with it in seven different places, inflicting two fearful wounds on the throat, and by a cut behind the ear, penetrating the jugular vein. McCracken has been apprehended, and lodged in Ayr prison.

THE PROVINCES.

A FATAL EXPERIMENT.—A young girl, thirteen years of age, lately visited the Devon county jail, in company with her master (a farmer) and mistress, and was shown, among other things, the place where culprits were hanged. When she arrived home she asked how hanging was effected, and her fellow-servants are reported to have described the process to her. She evinced considerable curiosity on the subject. A day or two ago she was discovered in an outhouse suspended by a rope to a rafter, and quite dead.

PAINEFUL OCCURRENCE.—The wife of the Rev. Mr. Thompson, who resides at Brighton, on account of her health, left her own room in her night-dress, one morning last week, went up stairs into the room where her child was in bed, took the poor little thing up whilst it lay asleep, opened the window, and then made a fearful descent into the back yard below. She was picked up in a state of insensibility, and at present lies in a most precarious state. No bones are broken. The child was not much hurt.

THE LUND HILL EXPLOSION.—More bodies have been recovered from the Lund Hill pit. The removal and bringing to the surface of these corpses is a work of danger, and "volunteers" undertake it; some have bags of camphor placed on their breasts, in the belief that the heat of the body will surround the head with an atmosphere of camphor. The jury are alarmed at the prospect of having to "view" the vast number of bodies; but the Coroner says it must be done, and the bodies be identified if possible.

LIGHTING OF MINES WITH GAS.—A most important work has recently been in progress at the Baleswidan Mine, Cornwall—the erection of gasworks, the introduction of gas into the shafts and levels, and hence the superseding, to a considerable extent, of the old system of lighting by candles. Mr. Wright, C.E., of London, who contracted with the adventurers for the supply of gas, has recently been in the neighbourhood, and delivered a lecture to the agents and miners of Baleswidan on the subject.

COMMEMORATION OF SHAKESPEARE'S BIRTHDAY.—At Stratford-upon-Avon, on Thursday week, the Royal Shakespeare Club celebrated, with the customary festival, Shakespeare's birthday. Nothing was resolved upon as to the future protection of the property; but it is extremely probable that it will be covered with a huge glass shade, built in the Crystal Palace style. The cottages having been pulled down on either side of the old house, its appearance presented a ruinous and cheerless aspect.

SIR ROBERT PEEL AT BLACKBURN.—On Thursday week, the soirée of the members and friends of the Blackburn Mechanics' Institution was held in the large room of the Town Hall. The room was well filled, and Sir R. Peel, Bart., occupied the chair. Sir R. Peel was loudly cheered. In the course of his speech he said:—"Let them hope that Russia and England would no longer be harassing each other by the appliances of war, but turn their attention to the progress and advancement of civilisation. The moment peace was signed came out the scheme for Russian railways. He did not mean to say that was a good scheme; but it showed the desire that immediately embraced the public mind for promoting material civilisation. He thought that there could not be a worse scheme for the British than the Russian railways. They were only to cost £45,000,000 sterling, and John Bull was told that he would have a guarantee of five or six per cent.—a rich very kind of Russia, seeing that we could have the same in England. But he believed the object in view was the military organisation of that country, and not the promotion of commercial progress."

BANQUET TO LORD-CHIEF-JUSTICE COCKBURN.—The public had hardly been reminded that for ten years the present Lord-Chief-Justice of the Common Pleas was the representative in Parliament of the borough of Southampton, but perhaps it is not so generally recollected that, some sixteen years since, he also filled the important judicial office of its Recorder. The Chamber of Commerce of that town, anxious that this double connection should not pass away without some ceremonial word at parting, determined to invite his Lordship to a public dinner. As a rule, the judges do not dine in public except at the Mansion House, but in this case the strict judicial etiquette was departed from, as not only did the Lord-Chief-Justice accept the invitation of his old constituents, but he was accompanied by Mr. Justice Williams and Mr. Baron Bramwell. The dinner was got up by a committee of the Chamber of Commerce. Amongst the company were men of all parties in the borough; and there were many present who, having opposed the Noble and Learned Lord at his successive elections, eagerly snatched at the opportunity of showing that, while they had differed from him as a politician, they esteemed him as a man. Covers were laid for eighty.

ATTEMPTED MURDER AND SUICIDE AT BRISTOL.—An Irish labourer, named John Cooney, residing in Steep Street, Bristol, was on Monday morning observed to take a hatchet from a cupboard in the kitchen, and carry it into the back-yard. Soon afterwards his wife sent her daughter out for some tea, when Cooney fetched the hatchet, and commenced a furious attack upon the poor woman, whom he left almost dead; he then ran down into the cellar, and cut his throat. It is stated that the deceased was a sober man, but had for some time been on bad terms with his wife, and moody and reserved towards his family.

"BATTENING."—At Sheffield, on Saturday night, a process locally called "battening" was performed upon the house of a fisherman named Gillet. Battening a house means to blow it up with gunpowder. Gillet was sleeping with his wife when he heard a noise at the cellar grating; and presently a loud explosion which shook the whole building took place. The floor and walls of the sitting-room and kitchen, with the furniture they contained, were blown to pieces; and it was not without difficulty that Gillet and his wife made their way out of the ruins. A tin bottle, with the mouth blown off, was found in the cellar, and the explosion had no doubt been managed by fitting a "nose" into the neck of the bottle, when filled with powder. The outrage is supposed to have been committed because Gillet refused to pay to the "union" connected with his trade. A man named Royton has been apprehended on suspicion.

A COURAGEOUS SERVANT GIRL.—Some burglars broke into the house occupied by a Mrs. Harrison, near Birkenhead, on Sunday morning. Hearing them enter, a maid-servant shouted, "Give me that blunderbus, and I'll blow their brains out." A young man who lives in the house was thus awoke: he fired a pistol, which had the effect of frightening the intruders, who decamped without effects.

A FATAL MISTAKE.—Three women had been lodging at the Barrel Inn, Sheffield, a few nights ago; but the landlord, George Loveday, finding them disorderly, was at length obliged to order them out of the house. They turned and abused him, and he seems to have driven them pell-mell along the passage leading from the tap-room to the front of the house. This passage was quite dark. It happened that at this moment a Mrs. Bennett, a respectable woman also lodging in the house with her husband, entered the passage from the street; and in the confusion and darkness Loveday struck her a blow which felled her to the ground. Loveley soon discovered what an unhappy mistake he had made, and carried Mrs. Bennett into the tap-room. He said to her husband, who was sitting there, "George, it's a bad job, I have hit your wife by mistake." Bennett carried her away, when she exclaimed, "Oh my lad, I believe I am a murdered woman." She complained particularly of her forehead and the back of her head, and about half past twelve o'clock died. The unfortunate woman had been married to Bennett about two years.

A FORTNIGHT WITHOUT FOOD.—A man was recently found, lying on the ground in Stockton's Wood, near Liverpool. He was in a state of great exhaustion, and, on being removed to a house, he was attended by a surgeon, who found it necessary to cut off his boots, as his feet were swollen and gangrenous. From documents found on him, and from his own statements, it appeared that he is a native of one of the Bermuda Islands; that he is a captain, and had brought a ship to England, but that, some one having detained his certificate, he was reduced to great distress; that, being unable to pay his rent, he left the town, wandered about, and at length lay down in the wood; and that he had been there a fortnight and two days, occasionally eating a little grass, and drinking some water from a brook which ran close by. A day or two before he was found, he had written with pencil on a scrap of paper some lines to his friends in Bermuda. It is thought the unfortunate man will recover.

A MURDER IN THE NORTH.

We briefly reported in the later editions of this paper, that Hector M'Donald, a labourer, living in one of the islands on the coast of Argyshire, had been charged with killing his wife. The evidence consisted almost entirely of the testimony of the wife's mother, an old woman, and a widow named Christina M'Donald, or Seton. Her account of the affair is so singular, and in some places even so grand, that we now give the greater part. It was given in Gaelic, through an interpreter. She said that her daughter Jane was between twenty-four and twenty-five years of age, had been married to the prisoner three years and a month, and had two children. Jane was a strong young woman and was in good health on the day before she died.

The prisoner and she did not agree. The younger child is now about a year old. Neither of the children are baptised, and prisoner denied that they were his children. Prisoner and his wife lived under the same roof with me—a wooden partition separated the two houses. That partition only reached to the top of the side walls, not to the roof of the house. The prisoner and his wife slept in their own beds of the house, while I slept at the other. I have a son named John. He was sometimes, since last New Year's Day, sleeping in my house. It was a straw bed the prisoner and his wife slept on. The straw was spread on the ground, with eight stones laid along outside to keep the straw in its place. These stones were about the size of a man's hat. The prisoner was at home on the evening of the 12th of last February, where he generally was. His wife came home that evening about the time of lighting candles. She came home quite well, and took a small bowl full of supper, consisting of thin porridge, made of wheals and oatmeal. That meal was not common to her; it was the first time she had taken it that year. Prisoner and his wife went to bed that night between eight and nine o'clock. I heard them scolding before going to bed. She said, 'Hector, keep the child (the younger), or else make the bed'; and then, shortly afterwards, 'Oh! you have killed the boy,' and he answered, 'Then raise or lift up the boy.' The wife said, 'Yes, I will do so when I bring down the cruize (light), from my mother's.' He then got up, and put his back to the end of his own house, and said, 'You have said to many a person that I have thrashed you; say the fourth part again, and — to my soul I will crush you.' After they went to bed, I went to bed also. There was a door which entered directly through the partition from the one house to the other. I was sitting in my own house when I heard the conversation referred to, and the door was open."

The old woman and M'Donald had some angry conversation previous to their going to bed, the former telling the latter that she would get some trustworthy people in the house to bear witness against him with respect to his violence to his wife. He answered, 'Little do I care what you do, old woman. Go away and seek them; the door is open.' On going to bed, the old woman took the elder of her grandchildren with her; the younger slept with its parents. In the course of the night, there was more quarrelling between Hector and his wife; but, a little after twelve o'clock, they became quiet, and the old woman fell asleep.

About daybreak, I heard a noise as if the outer door had fallen down. I remained in bed till I heard a second sound or stroke like to a heavy bag falling out of a cart on to the ground. This noise came from the floor of the prisoner's house, and from where the straw bed was. The house has an earthen floor. I got up and went to the prisoner's end of the house, and opened the partition door, and there saw the prisoner standing on the floor with his shoes, trousers, and braces on. I don't know whether he had those on when he went to bed, but if he had it was unusual. He had his wife (my daughter) in his arms, with her shift on, and his hands were either at her throat or opposite her heart, I cannot say which. Her head rested on his left shoulder, and his head leant over her head, and she had a small shawl on her head. I said, 'O God! what is here?' My daughter made no answer. The prisoner said, 'Jane has fallen.' I asked, 'O God! what is here?' as my heart was frightened from the language he had used before going to bed. I said to him, 'Let go my daughter,' and he answered me, 'I won't.' Then my son John, who was behind me, said, 'Let go Jane, Hector, or, let her go, Hector.' Prisoner then let her go, and she fell down on the floor. [Here the old woman came out of the witness box to the centre of the court floor in front of the bench to give practical illustration of the manner in which her daughter had fallen on the night in question. She there made a staggering circular movement, fell softly on the court floor on her face, and uttered a low deep moan. The solemn and dramatic effect of the scene made a profound impression on the court.] My daughter did not rise till my son John and I raised her, and John said, 'Hector, come and help us; we cannot raise her; she is heavy,' and the prisoner did come to help us. When we lifted her, prisoner wished her put into his own bed, but I refused, and we took her into my bed in my apartment. John and I carried her there, and I cannot say whether Hector assisted us or not, but he was there. We laid her down on her side in my bed. I put my tongue to her throat to feel if she was breathing, and I took the shawl off her face and her eyes were coming out, as if they were started out of their sockets; and I pushed them back with both my hands. I said, 'Dearest of women, if you can speak, and have your senses, do so. It is in your mother's two arms that you are.' When I said this, she four times opened and shut her lips with a very slight smack, and I put my ear to her mouth, and she muttered softly, 'Coup! Gaelic, coup, and I thought she wanted water. I gave her about half a cupful of water. I put it into her mouth, but I do not think any of it went over, as it ran out of her mouth. About two minutes after this, she pressed the points of her fingers very tightly together, and muttered something like, 'My poor children!' She appeared to die then, and said no more. I think from the time she was carried 'ben' till the time she died, would be about ten minutes. It was daylight at the time she died. The prisoner was then in his own end of the house. I said to my son John, 'Go for my sister, for Jane is dead,' and prisoner said, 'If you will let me up, I will know whether she is dead or not.' I said, 'How will you know whether she is dead or not better than I do?' and he said, 'I will know'; and I said, 'Come down, then.' Prisoner felt her throat, and then he lifted his hands and exclaimed, 'Oh, Voh! she is dead. I will go into the sea.' I said, 'You will not go out into the sea. You will remain and take care of your two sons. They require nursing, and I cannot attend to them; I am too weak. I require to be nursed myself to-day.'

M'Donald afterwards held the body while the old woman's sister washed it. He desired to have the body buried the next day.

The medical evidence of Dr. Wilson confirmed the account given of the death of M'Donald's wife, and showed clearly that it must have resulted from throttling by some person other than herself. The jury found the accused guilty of culpable homicide, and he was sentenced to transportation for life.

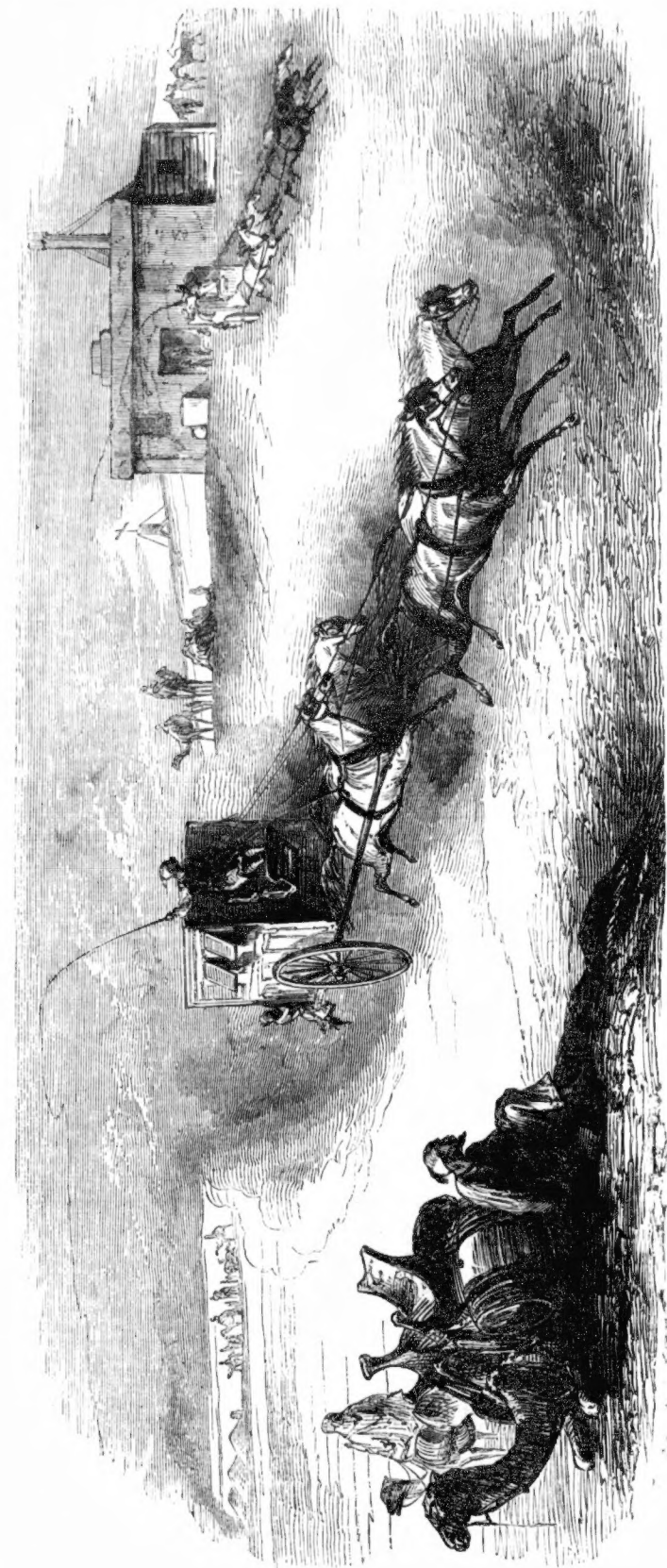
THE CAIRO AND SUEZ RAILWAY.

The accompanying engraving will recall the attention of our readers to the railway now in course of construction across the desert of Suez, and of which we furnished some illustrations in a previous number of the "Illustrated Times" (No. 85), with information as to its origin and prospects. The obstacles encountered in the progress of such a work are of course neither few nor far between. The construction of a railway in a country divided by

May, 1855; but, for various reasons, the works were not commenced till more than six months subsequent to that date. Our readers are doubtless aware that the railway, when completed, will unite Suez and Cairo, and be the means of a rapid and convenient communication between the Mediterranean and the Red Sea.

Let us briefly indicate what kind of places are those which this railway is intended to connect. The name of Cairo is great in history. Founded towards the close of the tenth century by the Arabs, its citadel was built by the famous Saladin; and the city continued the capital of the Sultans till the memorable period of the Turkish conquest. It is still the capital city of Egypt, the residence of the Viceroy, and the seat of Government. The city proper, which is built on a slope at the foot of one of the lowest ridges of a chain of hills, occupies an area of about three square miles, and is surrounded by old walls. The streets are narrow and ill-paved, but the houses are substantial and lofty. The remarkable edifices—which comprise some of the finest remains of Arabian architecture—all date from the reign of the Arabs and the ancient Sultans of Egypt.

Suez is a frontier seaport town of Egypt, at the head of the Gulf bearing that name. It is a wretched town, with houses of sun-burnt brick, unpaved streets, with about a dozen mosques, a Greek church, a custom-house, &c.; the whole enclosed by a wall mounting a few guns. The country around is a perfect desert. From its situation on the high road to India, however, Suez has always been a place of extensive transit trade.



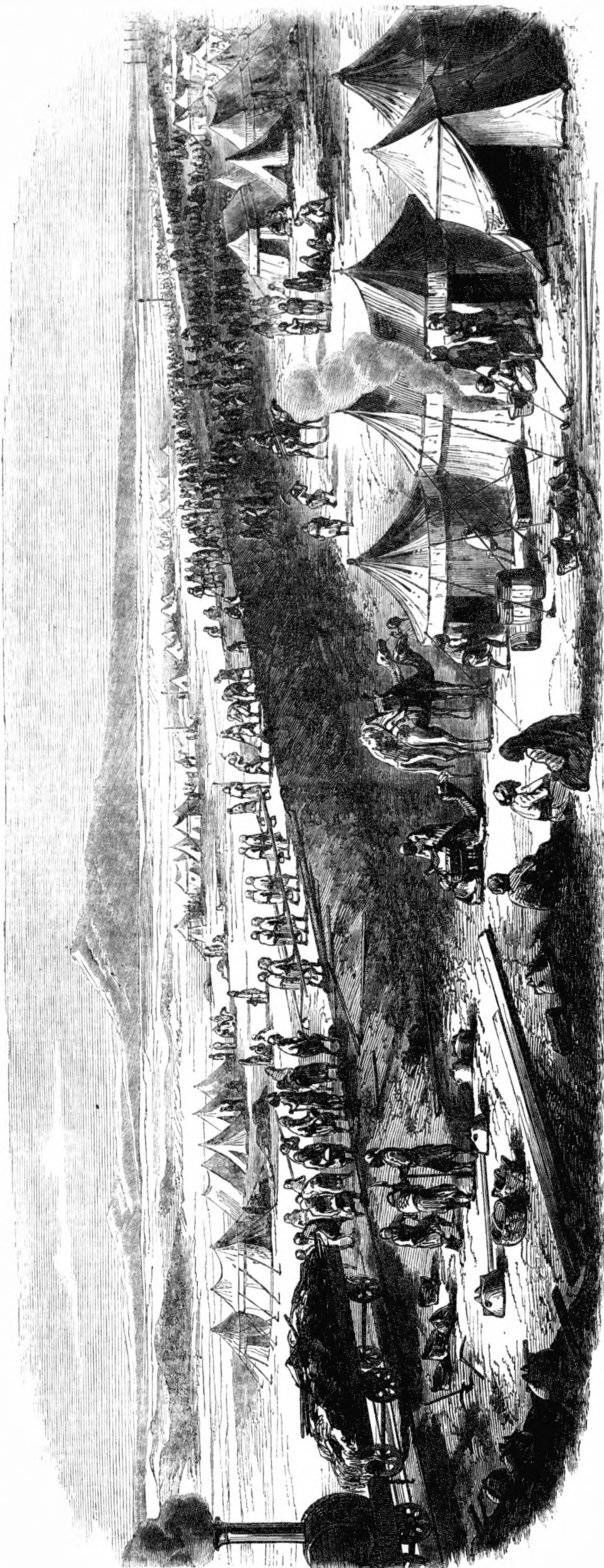
THE SUEZ RAILWAY: COACH SERVICE IN THE EGYPTIAN DESERT.

mountains and valleys necessitates considerable embankments, with deep cuttings and tunnels. Though commenced in January 1856, the works had not till lately proceeded with anything like rapidity; but at the present time, no fewer than twenty-four thousand men are employed in carrying out the great project; and it is the opinion of the engineer in chief, M. A. Monchelet, that the whole will be completed before the end of the year. In about a month, nearly one half of the line will be connected by a branch with the present road now travelled over in rudely-constructed vans, so that this part of the journey, which usually occupied some fifteen hours, will be performed in rather less than one hour and a half.

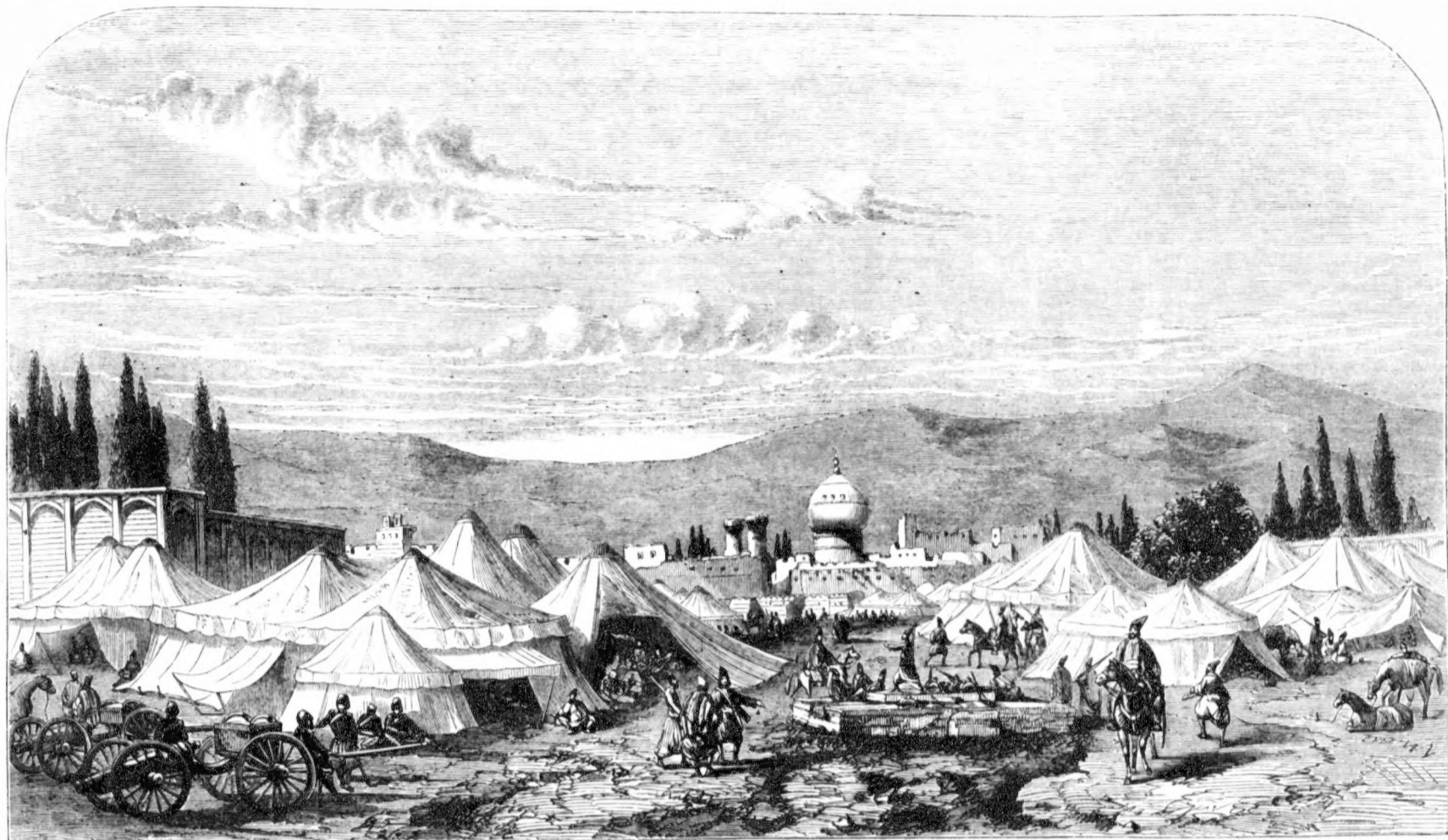
One of our illustrations represents the construction of an embankment in the heart of the desert. In the distance to the right may be seen the posts of the electric telegraph, which for the last six months has been the means of rapid communication between Suez and Cairo and from thence to Alexandria.

Thousands of workmen are engaged at this spot, and the encampments of the various contingents supplied by the neighbouring provinces are pitched on all sides. On the embankment the Arabs may be observed levelling the earth or laying down the sleepers and rails; and in the foreground, to the right, are the tents of the engineer and his staff.

The construction of the line does great credit to the Government of Egypt, to whom the present and future generations should ever be grateful for thus facilitating the communication between the West and distant East. A firman was granted for its construction in



THE SUEZ RAILWAY: CONSTRUCTION OF THE LINE.



THE PERSIAN ARMY ENCAMPED UNDER THE WALLS OF SHIRAZ.

THE PERSIAN ARMY ENCAMPED UNDER THE WALLS OF SHIRAZ.

SHIRAZ, the capital of that province of Persia known by the name of Fars, and formerly one of the most important in the country, was in reality the nucleus of the Persian empire, the name of which is a corruption of the word *Fars*.

The people of Shiraz bear a warlike character, and have rendered themselves formidable, at some periods, as the most resolute antagonists of the Persian monarchs and at others, as the most courageous supporters of the dynasty.

On the occasion to which our engraving refers, the troops of the Shah were encamped in the great plain of Shiraz, outside the walls of the city.

Shiraz, towards the south, is only a few days' journey from the Gulf of Persia; and it was natural that the Shah should have there assembled troops destined to oppose the advance of the English army. Among them might be seen the various tribes of Persia, including the celebrated *Tuffekedjis*, exceeding in number the tribes collected by the Shah from all other parts of his empire.



THE JEWISH SYNAGOGUE IN COURSE OF ERECTION AT MANCHESTER

Unfortunately for Persia, she can boast of few troops well-drilled and disciplined; so that she could hardly hope to make any stand against the well-commanded troops of Britain. Nevertheless, the Persian soldier is not to be despised, seeing that he is sober, steady, active, and possesses great powers of endurance.

LAYING THE CORNER STONE OF THE JEWISH SYNAGOGUE AT MANCHESTER

THE ceremony of laying the Corner Stone of the synagogue of the Manchester Hebrew Congregation took place on Wednesday. The Chief Rabbi, the members of the building and congregational committee, and the pupils of the Manchester Jews' School, enacted their various parts in the scene; and no forms were omitted likely to render the occasion impressive and memorable. On the previous page our readers will find an engraving, which represents the edifice now in the course of erection at a cost of four thousand pounds.

The site of the new Synagogue is the east side of the great omnibus thoroughfare from Manchester to Cheetham Hill, and the principal entrance, at the west end of the building, is about five yards back from the causeway. This is approached by a flight of steps, at the top of which is a loggia 24 feet wide by 12 feet deep. At the north and south are two entrance doors leading to the staircases which ascend to the galleries, and two other entrances leading into lobbies, and thence into the Worship Hall, or laterally into ante-rooms. These lobbies lead to the Worship Hall, which is 56 feet 6 inches wide from north to south, and 72 feet long from east to west, besides a recess 6 feet deep at the west end. The hall is furnished with seats to accommodate 372 gentlemen, 90 boys or pupils, and 60 as free sittings.

In the centre of the east end is a recess formed by projecting pilasters to contain the Ark, the platform of which is raised above the level of the floor by five steps. The Ark is to be inclosed with doors of the most beautiful polished mahogany, and covered with a curtain in the usual manner. Attached to the steps and surrounding the Ark are to be four polished mahogany pedestals supporting bronze candelabra. A pulpit made of mahogany, to correspond with the Ark and other fittings, is also to be placed near the Ark.

About the centre of the hall is placed the reading-desk, westward of which are seats for the choir, and eastward are seats for the officers of the Synagogue, the whole of which are raised three steps above the general level, and are also to be formed of polished mahogany.

The galleries are set apart for the ladies; and accommodation is provided for 156 lads, 70 girls, and 64 free sittings. At the east end, on each side the stained glass window over the Ark, are tablets for the law, or Commandments; and immediately underneath are others for the prayers for the Queen and Royal Family; at the west end are corresponding tablets for a list of donors to the Synagogue.

The hall is lighted by twenty windows, and by one of stained glass in the centre of the east end over the Ark. This is to be of an arabesque pattern, and at the top of it is written the word "Jehovah" in Hebrew characters.

The galleries are erected over a Doric entablature, supported on pilasters which extends around the four sides of the hall in front of the galleries and over the Ark. Over the whole is an entablature of the Corinthian order supported on columns. This entablature extends around all the external walls, dividing the ceiling into three large divisions, each of which is raised about five feet above the side divisions over the galleries, and thus forming a clerestory lighted by eight stained glass windows, four on each side. The ceiling is formed into panels, and in the centre of the four centre panels are to be placed gas "sunlights" for lighting the hall, with the addition of some single burners placed under the galleries.

THE MANCHESTER EXHIBITION.

It was said, when, to the magnificent Exhibition of 1851, people flocked by hundreds of thousands, that a new era in art had commenced for Great Britain; and that that wonderful collection of things, beautiful and useful, would prove fruitful in its kind for ever and ever. Its success was certainly not to be estimated in itself alone. It largely reinforced whatever feeling for art then existed; it restored the almost lost element of beauty into the mere manufacture; the best proof of which is that it has led to five or six demonstrations of a similar kind (in various regions), in about as many years. The latest of these kindred Exhibitions is that which will be opened at Manchester on Tuesday; and though the latest it is certainly not the least. On the contrary, it is perhaps the greatest. In its chief features original, those features have an interest for the lover of art, and a value for the student of art, perfectly unexampled; and short of the resurrection of the great masters of painting and sculpture, of the eminent workers in ivory, and bronze, and silver, and gold, we can scarcely conceive of a greater boon to art than the collection in one vast studio, of such a multitude of the most precious works.

To complete some information on the subject contained in our last number, we now give the

PROGRAMME OF THE OPENING.

The Prince, accompanied by his suite, and escorted by a squadron of Dragoons, will leave Abney Hall, the residence of the Mayor of Manchester, at one o'clock p.m. At Disbury, his Royal Highness will be met by the Earl of Burlington, Lord-Lieutenant of the county of Lancaster, and Charles Towneley, Esq., High Sheriff. The cortege will then proceed to the city boundary, where the Bishop of Manchester, Lieutenant-General Sir Harry Smith (commanding the Midland District), his staff, and the municipal authorities, will join the procession, which, on arriving at Grosvenor Square, will move at a walking pace by the Stretford New Road to the Exhibition building. His Royal Highness will arrive at the building at two o'clock p.m., and will be received by a guard of honour.

On arriving at the building, Lord Overstone, President of the General Council of the Exhibition, and the Chairman and Members of the Executive Committee; J. C. Deane, Esq., the general commissioner; and Lieutenant-Colonel Hamilton, secretary, will meet his Royal Highness, and conduct him to the state reception room. On entering the building, the Prince will be met by the Mayor of Manchester, in his robes of office, accompanied by such members of the corporation as may be present, who will present an address at a dais near to the entrance. The Prince will then proceed up the central hall to the dais prepared for his reception in the transept, accompanied by Lord Overstone, the Chairman and Members of the Executive Committee, &c. As the procession moves up the middle avenue of the central hall, the orchestra will perform the National Anthem instrumentally, which will be repeated vocally when the Prince takes his place on the dais. Upon the conclusion of the anthem, the address from the executive committee will be presented. The orchestra will then perform "The Heavens are Telling" of Haydn, after which the Lord Bishop of Manchester will offer up a prayer, invoking a blessing upon the undertaking. At the termination of the prayer, the orchestra will perform the Hundredth Psalm.

A procession will then be marshalled, headed by Captain Palin, the Chief Constable of Manchester, who will be followed by the engineers, architects, decorators—the General Commissioner (Mr. Deane), and the Secretary, Lieutenant-Colonel Hamilton, the heads of the various departments, the Members for Manchester, Salford, and the county of Lancaster, the General commanding the district, with his staff, the Lord Bishop of Manchester, and the Lord-Lieutenant of the County, the High-Sheriff, the Mayor of Manchester, the Chairman of the Executive Committee (Mr. Fairbairn), Lord Overstone, President of the General Council of the Exhibition, his Royal Highness Prince Albert, the Members of the Prince's suite, the Earl of Carlisle, Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, and suite, Members of her Majesty's Ministry, Foreign Ambassadors and Ministers, the heads of learned and artistic societies, and others specially invited to take part in the ceremonial.

The procession will move from the transept to the right, entering the gallery of the ancient masters at the western end, and will proceed through that gallery to the door leading to the southern division of the museum of art, and crossing the main hall near to the armory court, will return by the northern division of the general museum, and enter the eastern door of the gallery of modern painters. It will then proceed through that gallery to its northern door adjoining the transept, and turn to the left. His Royal Highness will again be conducted to the dais in the transept. During the progress of the procession the orchestra will perform "The March from Athalia" and a selection from the Ode to St. Cecilia. His Royal Highness, having returned to his place on the dais, will declare the Exhibition open. After which the orchestra will perform the Hallelujah Chorus.

His Royal Highness will then proceed to inspect the gallery of ancient masters. On leaving the gallery the barriers which separate it from the general museum of art will be removed, and the public be permitted to circulate. Crossing the central hall, his Royal Highness will be conducted to the gallery of modern paintings; on leaving which, the barriers will likewise be removed for the admission of visitors. His Royal Highness will then be conducted through the Oriental court, the water-colour gallery, and the court of engravings.

THE RUINS OF THE COVENT GARDEN THEATRE have been sold by auction. The catalogue comprised upwards of a hundred lots.

TRADE AND NAVIGATION RETURNS.

THE accounts relating to trade and navigation for the first quarter of 1857 have just been published, and show an advance sufficiently striking even on the prosperous year 1856. The total declared value of the exports of the United Kingdom for the month of March was £10,456,318 sterling, and for the first quarter of the year £28,827,493. Both the month and the quarter show a considerable increase over the corresponding terms in 1856 and 1855. Taking the quarter, as allowing a fairer comparison, we find that the value of the exports was, for 1855, £18,808,317; for 1856, £25,149,103, and for 1857, £28,827,493—or an increase of about 15 per cent. on last year. Now, as the total amount for 1856 was nearly £116,000,000, we may expect, if this advance be kept through the whole of the four quarters, that the total value of exports for the present year will exceed £133,000,000.

With regard to the details of our import and export trade, some interesting facts are found in the returns. In spite of the apprehended murrain, 7,318 oxen, bulls, and cows were imported in the first quarter of 1857—a number much in advance of 1856, though not equalling the importation of 1855, which seems to have been particularly large. The materials for innocent beverages have been brought into the country in greatly increased quantities. Of cocoa 1,713,000 lbs. were imported in the first quarter of 1857, against 1,024,192 in 1856, and 731,558 in 1855. Coffee shows a considerable fluctuation. In 1855, the importation for the quarter was 1,107,467 lbs.; for 1856 it fell off to 8,676,925 lbs.; and for 1857 it is 5,042,933 lbs. The quantity of wheat imported during the late quarter was 599,492 quarters—but little less than the importation for last year, and considerably greater than that for 1855, which amounted to 422,285 quarters. The wheat meal and flour imported is almost the same as last year; it amounts to 631,328 quarters, while the importation for 1855 was 318,672. The increase in the quantity of these articles brought from the United States is truly wonderful. In 1855, it was 142,416 quarters; in 1857, it is 596,814 for the same term of three months.

The importation of cotton shows a decrease compared with 1856, but still is far in advance of 1855. For the first quarter of 1855, 1,559,782 cwt. were imported; for 1856, 1,843,703; for 1857, 1,716,586. The quantity from the United States is, however, less than in either of the two previous years, being 1,390,058 cwt. in 1857, against 1,590,661 in 1856, and 1,431,234 in 1855. To remedy in some degree this deficiency we have a gratifying increase in the importation from India, the quantity being in the first quarter of 1856, 75,222 cwt., and for the corresponding periods of the two next years, 171,110 and 191,688. The importation from Egypt has also more than doubled within the two years, while that from Brazil has increased from 28,414 lb. to 81,112 lbs. Although the statistics of so short a term may be delusive, yet it is to be hoped that they represent in this case a growing increase in the cotton production of the globe, and that the danger, so much dreaded, of the rivalries of Lancashire and New England lacking their supply of material may never be realised.

After corn and cotton all other products are of small importance. We may, however, relate, for the gratification of the curious, that 1,430,807 pairs of gloves were imported in the last three months; that during the same term 26,041,600 eggs were brought into the country, or nearly an egg a piece for the whole population. The quantity of wine entered for home consumption shows a steady increase. It was, for the first quarter of 1855, 1,454,105 gallons, and for the first quarter of the last and the present year, 1,42,877 and 1,935,293 gallons respectively.

The scale on which our export trade is conducted may be conceived from the fact that in the first quarter of 1855, we supplied foreign countries and our own colonies with 72,778 tons of coal; that the quantity for the same term of 1856 rose to 1,072,037 tons; and that for the present year it is 1,251,107 tons. A million and a quarter of tons of coal exported in three months gives a sufficient proof how much the world is dependent on the resources of this country. With regard to our greatest article of manufacture, we find that the declared value of the cotton goods exported in the last three months was £7,307,432, against £6,332,269 in 1856, and £5,882,096 in the year before. The exports of cotton amount in value to considerably more than a third of the whole. Iron and woollens come next, and the increase has been considerable on almost every item.

The account of the number and tonnage of vessels which entered inwards and cleared outwards with cargoes for the first quarter of the three years, shows an increase in navigation corresponding to the progress in manufactures. For the quarter ending March the 31st, 1855-56, the tonnage of the shipping entered inwards was 1,118,213, 1,318,310, and 1,436,616. Of this last amount, representing the first quarter of the present year, 893,008 tons were British, and 275,262 American. The British tonnage for the three quarterly terms is 67,441, 810, 485, and 893,008 tons; the American, 262,353, 254,931, and 275,262 tons. We therefore have our full share of the increase. The return of vessels cleared outwards shows a pretty much the same state of things. The tonnage of British ships taking out cargoes has risen from 926,593 in the first quarter of 1855, to 1,199,950 for the same period of 1856, and 1,363,975 for 1857—an increase of nearly 50 per cent.

EMBANKMENT OF THE THAMES.

THE Metropolitan Board of Works held a special meeting on Tuesday, to receive a report from the Committee of Works and Improvements respecting two plans for the embankment of the Thames; one by Mr. Lionel Osborne, the other by Messrs. Loder, Jackson, and Bird. At the outset, the report states to what, in the opinion of the Committee, "every measure of Thames-embankment should be mainly directed."

"1. To improve the Thames as a navigable river, having due regard to the safety of existing bridges. 2. To increase the wharfage-accommodation, and improve the means for the shipment and delivery of goods. 3. To improve the Thames in a sanitary point of view. 4. To remedy the present unsightly condition of the banks of the Thames, and afford facilities, by means of architectural embellishment, for improving their appearance. 5. To open up a new thoroughfare between the Eastern and Western parts of London. 6. To facilitate the construction of a low-level intercepting sewer."

Mr. Gibson's plan includes an embankment of the Thames on both sides of the river, between Westminster and London Bridges, leaving a width of 700 feet; and having on the left bank a covered esplanade, a railway, road, cellars, docks, and floating basins: cost £2,000,000. The other plan proposes the embankment of the left bank only: cost, £583,770. The committee are of opinion that there are good points in both schemes, but they do not decide in favour of either. They also think that the promoters of each of the designs under discussion have prejudiced the efficiency and value of those designs as works of public utility by seeking to render them commercially remunerative; and they consider that the public advantage should be the primary object in a work of such magnitude and of so peculiar a character as the embankment of the Thames.

The report was adopted, after considerable discussion, by 25 to 3. It was then resolved, by 17 to 1, "That as the control of the banks of the Thames is vested in the Crown or the Corporation of London, or both of them, her Majesty's Government and the Corporation of London be immediately communicated with, to ascertain if they will undertake to carry out the embankment of the Thames between Westminster and London Bridges, or if they will join with this Board in carrying out the same."

THE WEATHER AND THE CROPS.—The "Sussex Advertiser" has inaugurated a little grumble about the weather and the crops. It says:—"A good deal of wet has fallen, and although a week or so ago we had brilliant suns and a genial temperature, the last week has brought more heavy rains, accompanied by gloomy weather and biting cold winds, with night frost and occasional snow and hail. The face of the country has scarcely improved under this change—indeed, the wheats are reported to be going backward, and beginning to look yellow and sickly in places. We now require dry and warm weather, for if there be a continuance of cold winds accompanied by wet, a good deal of mischief must be done. There are reports of 'slugs,' and complaints are beginning to reach us that too much moisture has fallen. It is all too early as yet, however, to take alarm; but the period is not distant critical one, and the character of the weather during the next few weeks will necessarily be watched with much anxiety."

THE BUTTER WE EAT.—A quantity of butter, seized at the shop of a dealer in Liverpool, a few days ago, by the officers of the Health Committee of the Town Council, was found, on being analysed, to be thus constituted:—Butter, 47.4; salt (chlor. sod.), 23.4; nitre (nitrate potasse), 0.8; vegetable matter, derived from Irish moss or other seaweed, with water, 28.3; total, 100. This "butter" (so called) is an importation from America, and therefore the manufacturer will escape that punishment to which, were he an English subject, he would be liable.

COLLISION WITH A STEAMBOAT, AND LOSS OF LIFE.—While the Curlew, coast-guard cutter, was lying at anchor on the flat of the Mouse Sand, off Sheerness, a large steamer-vessel, about one o'clock on the morning of Thursday week, bore down upon her, came stem on, and struck her amidships, breaking the main boom. Michael Hawkins, the look-out man, on seeing the vessel approach, called to all hands, who were asleep below, to come on deck as quickly as possible. He also shouted loudly to warn off the steamer, but to no effect. After the collision, he heard some one on board the steamer say, "Why did you not show a light?" Hawkins was immediately afterwards thrown into the water, and became entangled in the standing and running rigging of the Curlew's topmast, which was carried away. The steam-vessel lowered a boat, which was manned; the men lay on their oars, and the boat drifted away with the wind and tide, without making an effort to save the crew of the Curlew. All, consequently, were drowned, with the exception of Hawkins, who was taken from the rigging by another coast-guard cutter, the Scout, which was lying about a quarter of a mile off, and which went to the assistance of her sister vessel.

FATAL BOILER EXPLOSION.—An inquest has been held on the bodies of five persons killed by a boiler explosion at Wolverhampton, last week. The verdict of the jury was, that "The deceased persons came to their death in consequence of injuries received by the explosion of a certain boiler upon the premises of Benjamin Mason, and that such explosion was caused by the negligence of the engineer, Benjamin Mason, in not supplying the engine with water."

THE TRANSIT AGAIN BREAKS DOWN!

A LETTER from an intelligent and responsible person on board the Transit, and which is authenticated by the writer's name, rank, &c., says that on April 19, that ship was lying "done up" at Corunna!

"Two days' Bay" weather sent us in here to be fresh rigged; you never saw a worse sea boat in your life—crank, top heavy, and every thing that's bad! Such an old tub you never saw; the rigging never set up, or anything secured; we had hard work to keep the masts from going over the side; if she had pitched instead of rolling I am sure the foremast must have gone over the bows. We had to get tackles across the decks from side to side to brace the rigging in to save the spars.—I am certain she will never weather the Cape, or she will receive all on board, both soldiers and blue jackets. If she is lost I only hope my diary will be found to condemn those who sent her to sea. You may think what she must be when I tell you for a truth that there are not one dozen men (troops) on board with a dry hammock, every seam in her deck letting in water."

It is our opinion that if the Transit doesn't weather the Cape—i.e., if the tub goes down—somebody will have to be arraigned. The Transit, it will be remembered, has the 90th regiment on board, for China; and was scarcely saved from foundering off the Isle of Wight, on her first attempt to get to sea with those men. This second break down establishes a degree of indifference or stupidity on the part of the "authorities," which is quite insufferable.

ROYAL BRITISH BANK.—NEW DISCLOSURES.

MR. CRAWFORD, the general manager of this bank, Mr. Humphrey Brown, and Messrs. Page and Chandler, the auditors, have been examined.

Mr. Crawford appeared in court as a voluntary witness: "he was desirous of being examined." He admitted that he made statements with respect to the past-due bills which were calculated to deceive the auditors. On one occasion Mr. Page observed, "After all, the audit is but a mere farce;" and Mr. Crawford's words were, "I perfectly agree with you in its being a farce, but this is the mode in which I am instructed to place the accounts before you—if you are not satisfied, you had better speak to Mr. Cameron." When Mr. Crawford was asked why he consented to be made the vehicle of a falsehood, he said, "I was master and clerk, and I obeyed the instructions." This faithful servant further explained that Mr. Cameron was his master and not the directors; and added that, when he once spoke to the board regarding the affairs of the bank, Mr. Cameron told him that "he would dismiss him if ever he did it again without speaking to him." Mr. Crawford, however, advised the directors to shut the bank on the 5th of August, 1856, and even a fortnight before that day; and notwithstanding this advice and the certain knowledge that the bank was hopelessly insolvent, he permitted a statement to appear in the "Gazette," which announced that the bank has £990,000 of assets. On August the 11th, 1856, Mr. Crawford issued a circular, by authority of the board, addressed to the shareholders, in which he begs them at once to bring their accounts, and those of their friends, to the bank, "where we fully believe the business facilities afforded are equal to any other joint stock bank, and the benefits which will thus directly accrue to yourself as a shareholder must be most apparent." This circular was issued, as Mr. Crawford admits, after he had told the directors that it was their duty to close the doors of the bank. Another suggestive and disgraceful circumstance may be mentioned, namely, that "the directors would not consent to forego their £2,000 a year; on the contrary, it appeared that they had received £1,000 of it long before it was due."

One of the auditors, Mr. T. Page, possesses a distinction which we are happy to have an opportunity of recording. Although an officer of the bank, "he has never been indebted to it, and he has received no benefit from it beyond some £10 for his services as auditor." Not so his colleague, who, at the time of the stoppage of the bank, "was its debtor for about £800." Mr. Crawford's representations were accepted by the auditors without hesitation and without inquiry. "Past-due bills," to the amount of £95,000—securities which were not worth the paper on which they were written—were treated as good and available assets; and these gentlemen had not the slightest means of knowing, or even suspecting, that any imposition had been practised upon them, as Mr. Crawford's answers "were very clear and satisfactory," the only doubt he expressed being about two small debts of £32 and £18, and "these he hoped the bank would recover." Not a word was said about the gigantic debt of Mr. H. Brown, of Mr. McGregor's loan, or of advances made to the directors and other officers of the bank. The Welsh mining adventure, even after £120,000 of the money of the bank had been prodigally wasted on that speculation, was kept a profound secret from the auditors.

Mr. Humphrey Brown's examination afforded points of equal interest. He said that he opened his credit with £18 4s., and on the same day drew £2,000. Before becoming a director he had not been in the habit of getting his bills discounted at the bank. His account which began with this credit of £18 4s., ended with a debit of £63,617 5s., "with sets off." He was told that everything necessary for loans would be attended to by Mr. Cameron, who was the principal man. He (Mr. Brown) was only an unfortunate director, very much in the dark. Whenever he wanted to know anything about an account in the bank, and sought to investigate it, he was told that the system pursued was the Scotch one. He had given mortgages on his ships as security for the advances, but he would not have the ships registered. He had, indeed, signed an agreement to do so, but had never carried it out. The "London ships" were subject to a previous mortgage of £10,300, the "Gloucester ships" he considered to be entirely at his own disposal, notwithstanding the mortgage to the bank; and he had always dealt with them as such. When he heard that Mr. Oliver was so largely indebted to the bank, he (Mr. Brown) was very angry; in fact, he would say, although it was a strong expression, that Mr. Oliver had swindled the bank out of £20,000. The worthy director was asked by Mr. Cameron, in 1855, to provide for the payment of his overdue balance, etc.; he replied, that he would be in town shortly, and asked to have a small sum put to the credit of his account. This was not done; but after his account was closed, he obtained a loan of £1,300. Nothing could be easier. It was an idle ceremony to ask him to pay the demands of the bank; and beyond the securities held for his debt, there was little chance of their getting anything. He disagreed with the balance-sheet for 1855, which stated that a sufficient provision had been made for bad debts; but Mr. Crawford said that they might as well close the doors as not make a dividend.

At the close of this most edifying investigation, a letter from Mr. Brown to Mr. Esdaile was read. It commented on the manner in which the press had handled the matter, and concluded with the very naive remark, "that it would appear from the comments of the press, as if no one had ever owed money to a bank before."

THE "MORNING HERALD" AND "STANDARD" AT AUCTION.—The copyrights of these two daily newspapers, together with that of the "St. James's Chronicle," published three days a week, were offered for sale by public auction on Tuesday, by Messrs. Christie and Manson. The property was put up in one lot. The auctioneer observed, that with the exception of nineteen shares in the "Globe," which were sold by Mr. George Robins in 1846, this was the first occasion within his memory on which a London newspaper had been offered for public sale. The purchaser of the copyrights would have to purchase also the leasehold premises and the plant, the first having been valued at £661, the latter at £6,190 3s. 6d. These sums would have to be added to the price of the copyrights. The auctioneer then stated that the total amounts paid for advertisements in the three papers during the last five years was £146,643 5s., giving an average of nearly £30,000 a year. In 1851 the amount was £31,690 11s.; in 1852, £35,730 18s.; in 1853, £30,979 2s.; in 1854, £26,484 4s.; and in 1855, £21,758 10s. He had no returns for the last year, nor could he furnish any information for that period. The papers come into the possession of the assignees on the 15th of February last, and since that period they had been carrying them on at a small profit—something like £700. The assignees had determined to put the property in at a fixed price—namely, £13,500, and an advance of £100 upon that amount would effect a bona fide purchase. The cost to the purchaser would then be, including the valuation of the plant and leaseholds, £20,151 3s. 6d. Not a single bid was offered, and the property was withdrawn. The "Morning Herald" alone originally cost £29,000.

THE FORTHCOMING ELECTION PETITIONS.—On Thursday the Queen's Speech will be delivered, and the session commence. All election petitions must be presented within fourteen days, but the committees will not proceed to investigate the allegations of bribery, &c., until about the middle of June. By the new Act, if bribery is proved, the Member returned is disqualified to sit in the existing Parliament, and he may be sued for penalties—£100 penalty for each offence. Either a candidate or voter may present a petition against a sitting Member. A recognisance with sureties is to be entered into to pay all costs, or £1,000 may be paid into the Bank of England. Counsel may appear for either party, and the committee proceed with the list of persons bribed. The speaker will nominate "The General Election Committee," and the select committees will be named and proceed to try the several matters brought before them. The select committees have power to examine witnesses, and to require the production of documents. It is said that Mr. Pinn, the barrister, will resume his Parliamentary business before the select committees. The fees are considerable, and some years ago very large sums were made by barristers who practised before the election committees.

ALTERATION IN THE BOOK POST.—On the 1st of May and thenceforward, writing (when not of the nature of a letter) will be allowed in all book packets, even when the postage is less than 4d.; and the rates will then be as follows:—For a packet not exceeding 4oz., 1d.; above 4oz. and not exceeding 8oz., 2d.; above 8oz. and not exceeding 16oz., 4d.; above 1lb. and not exceeding 1½lb., 6d.; and so on, 2d. being charged for every additional ½lb. or any less weight. The postage must be prepaid in full by means of postage stamps affixed outside the packet or its cover. Every book packet must be sent either without a cover, or in a cover open at the ends or sides, so as to admit of an examination of the contents.

DEFALCATIONS to the amount of £1,491 11s. have been discovered in the accounts of the late secretary of the Reform Club.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

THE contest for the Professorship of Poetry at Oxford is exciting more than ordinary interest. Seven Richmonds are in the field, viz. Mr. Bode, of Christ Church, late Bampton lecturer; Mr. W. B. Jones, Fellow of University, and former Ireland scholar; Mr. Matthew Arnold, late Fellow of Oriel, who gained the English Prize Poem in 1843; Mr. Tweed, Fellow of Exeter; Mr. Edwin Arnold, of University College, who gained the English Prize Poem ("The Feast of Belshazzar") in 1852; the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, of Christ Church; and Mr. John Ruskin, also of Christ Church. Of these gentlemen—the "we are seven" of Oxford Poetry—(Mr. Church, of Oriel, declined to be put in nomination), the most favoured appears to be Mr. Bode, whose "Ballads from Herodotus" have given him a high rank among our modern bards of the Mesulady school. Why Mr. Gladstone should have been brought forward, I cannot divine, notwithstanding his high university rank and popularity, and his recent Essay on Homer's place "in education and in history." Perhaps the High Church party think him a worthy successor to Keble and Cloughton. Mr. Ruskin's name has met with great opposition. "A prose writer," cry the malcontents "for a professor of poetry!" It may be a question, however, if Mr. Ruskin's prose is not some of the most glowing poetry that we have, and if his compositions are not infinitely more poetical than nine-tenths of the rhythmical spasms and puerilities to which the greater number of the new poets treat us. At any rate, Mr. Ruskin has equal poetical claims to the late Professor, whose sole published composition appears to have been his Newdigate Prize Poem—"Voyages of Discovery to the Polar Regions"—obtained in 1829. Mr. Cloughton has been far too actively engaged as a laborious and conscientious parish priest in that election-degraded town of Kidderminster, to allow of his devoting himself to those poetical compositions for which his elegant and scholarly mind is so eminently adapted, save when the duties of his professorship compelled him—as in the case of his Inauguration ode (for music) on the installation of Lord Derry, and his Latin lectures on poetry,—and therefore, as far as one can judge from published evidence, I must say that Mr. Ruskin has equal claims with the last gentleman who has so worthily filled the professor's chair.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE REVIEWS.

THERE is, I believe, a large class of book-consumers of the present day which looks upon the reviews as "dull reading." Thick ponderous tomes, crammed with marginal notes and statistical references, ungarished with smart covers and smarter writing, they are neglected by the rising generation, and are considered as *pabulum* more fitted for the frequenters of the Mechanics' Institute reading-room than the patrons of the circulating library. And yet even those brilliant geniuses who only read "for amusement," who take up a book as they take up a cigar, and who obtain as much benefit from the one as the other, would be pleased with the new number of the "Quarterly," which is the freshest and most interesting that Albe-Marle Street has sent forth for a long time.

The opening article, "Pedestrianism in Switzerland," is at once instructive and amusing, written by one possessing a thorough knowledge of his subject, and evidently a deep liking for the rambles, excursions, and ascents of which he treats. Though quoting here and there from those works on Mont Blanc and the Alps which are generally well known, the matter of the article is throughout so novel, and the manner of conveying information so pleasant, that it would be a pity if "Pedestrianism in Switzerland" were not reprinted, and sold in a shilling railway volume. The paper on "Lunatic Asylums," is perhaps the most interesting in the number. Thinking of the old days of Bedlam, of Hogarth's pictures, and Walpole's descriptions of s'rait waistcoats, whips, chains, and manacles, we have cause for wonder and rejoicing when we read of the system pursued in modern Bedlam and in the private asylums; when we are told of balls, whist parties, cricket, music, skittles, bowls, bagatelle, billiards, all enjoyed by patients—who also attend lectures on such abstruse subjects as "Chemical Affinity" and the "Genesis of Thought." This article should be read by all who are interested in that most interesting subject, the treatment of our helpless fellow-creatures. It abounds in anecdote and kindly feeling. Equally interesting, and (from the very nature of the subject, which allows of sly sarcasm and sparkling antithesis) more brilliantly written, is the article on "English Political Satire," which glances at a vast range of pungent squibs and ballads, from the Camden Society's edition of "Political Ballads," written in the reign of King John, down to the latest volume of "Punch." "Who drives fat oxen should himself be fat." Who writes on satire should himself be a satirist; and that the writer in the "Quarterly" is talking of his own craft breathes out in every sentence. Much research has been displayed in the collation of the various examples of each political era, and it is difficult to say which is most brilliant, the extracts or the original matter in which they are set. The "Quarterly" also contains a good review of "Dred," and a somewhat savage onslaught on Mr. George Borrow's "Romany Rye."

The "Edinburgh" opens with an article on the completion of Grote's "History of Greece;" and in his treatment of the subject, the reviewer indulges in a long dissertation on the life and character of Alexander the Great, whose conduct he warmly defends against the misrepresentation and carping spirit of Niebuhr, and the milder form of exception taken to him by Mr. Grote. Admitting that many faults and a few crimes stain his glory, it is argued that perhaps none of mortal race ever went through such an ordeal, and that it would have been a moral miracle if a fiery and impulsive youth had passed quite unscathed through such temptations as had never beset humanity before. To the reader whose time is precious, and who likes to find the largest amount of information in the smallest possible space, the article "Boswell and Boswelliana" will be specially palatable, being, in fact, the essence of Boswell's recently-published letters, the "Boswelliana," published by the Philobiblon Society, and Macaulay's article on Dr. Johnson in the new edition of the "Encyclopedia Britannica." In the "Boswelliana" we find recorded his pantings after notoriety, which first found vent in the "Journey to Corsica" and his worship of Paoli; his loves and intrigues, his pursuit of English, Irish, and even Dutch damsels; his instructions to friends, who are in the habit of visiting his *inamoratæ*, to speak well of his tastes, habits, and person; his egregious conceit, which led him to appear at the Shakespeare Festival at Stratford-on-Avon with a band round his hat, on which the words "Corsica Boswell" were inscribed; his ridiculous self-sufficiency, which induced him to record his own *bon-mots* in his note-book, and to lament that his club had lost its "select merit" by the admission of such men as Gibbon and Adam Smith! Without blinking all the faults, the reviewer yet treats poor Boswell with much kindness, praises him for the copiousness, accuracy, and fidelity of his notes, for his quick observation and retentive memory, and does good battle in his stead with the savage Macaulay, by whom he is thrust into outer darkness as a contemptible and meddling buffoon. Other well-written papers in the "Edinburgh" are a pleasant account of the origin and proceedings of the "Dilettanti Society," a mournful glance at the last "Census of France," a good review of "Kaye's Life of Malcolm," and a political article on "The Past Session and the New Parliament," remarkable for its spirited sketch of Mr. Gladstone's policy and conduct.

The best papers in the "National Review," are a critique on Mrs. Browning's "Aurora Leigh," and a delightful article on the Old Clubs of London. A disquisition on Modern Clubs is promised in a future number, when I hope to treat the article *in extenso*.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

On Monday evening Mr. and Mrs. German Reed appeared in a new entertainment at the Gallery of Illustration. The first part is called, "A Month of Home," and we are introduced to several of the characters encountered by Mr. Reed during his *relâche* at a country village. An old lady proprietress of a school, one of her pupils, a funny boy in love with said pupil, a little old lady, pleasant and cheerful in her old age, an absurd spinster, and an unpleasant idiot boy, are successively represented by Mrs. Reed, who varies the entertainments by various songs, given in the best manner, and in the richest tones of her fine contralto. The second part being merely the *rechauffé* of an old idea, a musician unable to finish his

opera, was not so striking. The room was crowded, and the applause loud and constant. A most beautiful Elizabethan "interior" has been painted for the new entertainment by Mr. Grieve.

THE OPERAS.

On Tuesday last, the rival operas changed performances. At her Majesty's Theatre, Madame Ortolani, the new soprano, made her *début* in the "Puritani," which was played on the opening night at the Lyceum; and at the Lyceum, Grisi and Mario appeared, for the first time this year, in the "Favorita," the opera with which her Majesty's Theatre commenced the season.

Madame Ortolani has a clear flexible voice, of which the upper notes are incomparably the best; and her execution of some of the higher passages in the well-known *polacca* was so brilliant as to call forth the enthusiastic applause of an audience, which, as usual, appeared to set more value on altitude than on excellence. Madame Ortolani may or may not improve her style; but if she can only add half a tone to her voice, she will be irresistible. It will only be one note, to be sure; but persons who are fond of that note (as Bilboquet says) will be enchanted. A friend of ours once calculated that the voice of a really good tenor, who could sing up to A, would be worth ten thousand pounds more (at five years' purchase) if he could only reach C—three thousand pounds for the B, and seven thousand for the C. We do not know what the pecuniary scale for a soprano may be; but it is of course more or less in proportion to the musical one. As a general rule, she has to sing higher, and for less money, than the tenor; but, however this may be, we recommend Madame Ortolani to persevere until she has reached the very loftiest regions of her art. Madame Ortolani's acting is without passion, as her voice is without force; but it must be remembered that there is no particular reason why passion should be exhibited in the "Puritani," unless some of the singers should happen to have a special inclination for it. There is something like love at the beginning of the opera, to judge by the bridal costume—and something like madness at the end, to judge by the traditional white dress and the traditional dishevelled hair; but it is probable that neither the composer nor the author had any very clear conception of the story (certainly not the author); and Madame Ortolani acted very sensibly in not showing much emotion about events which it is impossible to understand. On the whole, then, she is a judicious actress, and her singing is generally agreeable, her upper notes being admirable. Compared with Madame Spezia, she is superior in voice, but inferior in dramatic power. If called upon to classify her, with her absence of genius and her absence of any salient defect, we should place her in the rational school, and she may be said to have achieved a reasonable amount of success.

Giuglini had the real success of the evening. In fact, his success was something like a triumph. Forgetting, or never having known, that "A te o Caru" is a quartet, a portion of the audience called on the tenor to repeat the opening! The singer would probably have enjoyed this compliment more if these injudicious supporters had shown themselves less unfamiliar with the music he was executing; but be that as it may, his success throughout the opera was most genuine. Applauded sometimes opportunely, sometimes inopportunely, but always deservedly, always vehemently and occasionally even vociferously, Giuglini proved for the third time not only that he is an excellent tenor, but also that he will be a popular one. If tenors are to be divided into "robust" tenors and light tenors, we hardly know in which category to place Giuglini. As regards voice alone he is scarcely more "robust" than Calzolari, who is nevertheless a very light tenor; and Gardoni had quite as masculine a voice ten years ago, when he first went into that consumption which has been agreeing with him so remarkably well ever since. But Giuglini has the advantage of a sufficiently imposing personal appearance, which, with his energetic acting, enables him to assume such parts as Fernando in the "Favorita"—parts for which, in a musical point of view, he is not specially qualified. In such characters as the Lover in the "Traviata," or even in the "Puritani," it may be said that Giuglini sings as well as can be desired, but in Mario's great parts he must necessarily be looked upon as a second-class singer, the whole of the first-class being filled by Mario himself. We were especially reminded of Mario's pre-eminence by hearing him in the last act of "La Favorita," immediately after Giuglini in the "Puritani." When Mario dies—or when his voice dies, which will be the same thing—there will be a general promotion among tenors; but it does not appear likely that he will be replaced by anyone who has yet sung in public. At present Mario really destroys every part he plays—that is to say, destroys it for anyone who may attempt it afterwards. Baucardé and Tamberik really appeared to sing very well in the "Trovatore," but since the part of Manrico has been played by Mario, it is a pity to hear any one else in it. So many natural advantages, and so many different kinds of talent, must be combined to produce such a result as Mario, that we can only look upon him as a phenomenon. No tenor of our days, including Duprez, has sung so dramatically. Duprez sometimes acted with more force, but then he sacrificed the singing, whereas with Mario it is the singing itself that is dramatic; each sound is a word, each phrase an idea.

Mario naturally enough suggests Grisi. Grisi's voice, at last, is going. It gives the audience fair warning of this every evening; and what is left of her once magnificent voice is becoming rebellious—she has three or four admirable bursts of inspiration (we may almost say), in the course of each of her operas, but she cannot sing a part, nor a scene, nor an air, nor even eight bars, in her former grand manner. As Mario has raised the part of Manrico in the "Trovatore," so Grisi has lowered that of Leonora in the same opera. It was a strange idea, indeed, to play a part which Bosio had been playing only eight months before, as if Bosio could be forgotten in eight months! In the audience of the first scene (Leonora's first scene), where Bosio was so touching, so poetical, Grisi is really common-place, and in the allegro we miss all the lightness, and all the brilliancy, which distinguished the execution of the incomparable soprano. Grisi's fourth act is said to be very fine. Nothing of the kind. She gets into a rage, and that is all. When Grisi has lost her voice, we are afraid she will be in the position of a woman who has lost her beauty, and who never had anything but mere physical beauty to depend upon. When at some distant period Bosio loses her voice—treasure as it is—she will still sing very delightfully; for without being a great actress (that she is not a good actress we deny), she is full of grace, which appears in her deportment, her physiognomy, and above all, in her singing. What is usually termed grace has been called "the expression of the body;" Bosio is all grace, and indeed is all expression.

When is she to appear? That is the next question, and the most important. Ronconi's first appearance for the season in "Maria di Rohan," was accompanied by the first appearance of Neri Baraldi, the tenor, Didide the favourite contralto, and Rosa Devrics, who will never be a very favourite soprano. Ronconi's acting in the last act is the finest tragic acting which can be seen in England. The scene is not one which calls for any exhibition of complex feeling. It is in fact simple enough. A husband discovers suddenly the guilt of his wife, whom he had never suspected, and after his first surprise, his rage goes on expanding until the entrance of the rival, when it bursts over his head and overwhelms him. This magnificent crescendo of jealousy was executed by Ronconi with the most wonderful power. The pathetic elegy on his lost happiness, the suppressed rage with which he awaits his victim, and the cry of satisfaction which he utters when he at length feels that he has him in his power—all this was given by Ronconi in the most touching, the most impressive, the most terrible manner. Didide sings the air in the first, and especially the very pretty air in the second act with great effect. However, "Maria di Rohan" will certainly not be played many times. It is said to be Donizetti's seventy-fourth opera, and it is about his twentieth in point of merit. The great fault in the opera (putting the music out of the question) is the attempt to replace sentiment by personal interest, as in the finale to the first act, for instance, when all the characters begin singing *à propos* of Richelieu's downfall and Chalais's accession to office. Diplomats are usually unvoiced, or at all events, which is much more to the purpose—diplomacy is a very unvoiced subject.

The Crystal Palace concerts (with the opera company) commenced on Friday. We must necessarily postpone our notice of them until next week.

THE NEW READING-ROOM AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

THE magnificent Reading-room and Library, which, at a cost of £150,000, have within the last three years been erected in the internal quadrangle of the British Museum, are now completed, and on the 8th inst. will be opened for a week to the general public. After that period, the Reading-room will be devoted to the use of those who frequent the British Museum for purposes of study or literary labour.

The building which our engraving represents, is circular, and occupies an area of 48,000 superficial feet. The dome is 140 feet in diameter, its height being 106 feet. The new Reading-room contains 1,250,000 cubic feet of space, and its "suburbs," or surrounding libraries, 750,000. The building is constructed principally of iron, with brick arches between the main ribs, supported by twenty iron piers. The roof is formed into two separate spherical and concentric air chambers, extending over the whole surface; one between the external covering and brick vaulting, the object being the equalisation of temperature during extremes of heat and cold out of doors; the other chamber, between the brick vaulting and the internal visible surface, being intended to carry off the vitiated air from the Reading-room. The supply of fresh air is obtained from a shaft 60 feet high, built on the north side of the north wing about 300 feet distant, communicating with a tunnel or sub-way, which has branches or "loop lines" fitted with valves for diverting the current either wholly through the heating apparatus, or through the cold-air flues, or partly through either, as occasion may require. For summer ventilation steam pipes, placed at the summit of the roofs and dome, will be heated, and extract the foul air when the external and internal temperature is unfavourable for the purpose.

The Dome contains ample and comfortable accommodation for 300 readers. Each person will have a separate table, and be screened from the opposite occupant by a longitudinal division, which is fitted with a hinged desk graduated on sloping racks, and a folding shelf for spare books. In the space between the two, which is recessed, an inkstand is fixed, having suitable penholders. Thus the whole table top is free from writing implements or other embarrassments, and every precaution is taken to preserve the books. The catalogue tables, with shelves under, and air-distributing tubes between, are ranged in two concentric circles around the central superintendent's enclosure or rostrum.

The decoration of the interior dome is happily an exception to the monotonous and dingy shadows usually adopted in this country. Light colours and the purest gilding have been preferred. The great room, therefore, notwithstanding its circular shape, has an illuminated and elegant aspect. The decorative work may be shortly described. The inner surface of the dome is divided into 20 compartments by moulded ribs, which are gilded with leaf prepared from pure gold, the soffites being in ornamental patterns, and the edges touching the adjoining margins fringed with a leaf-pattern scalloped edge. Each compartment contains a circular-headed window, 27 feet high and 12 feet wide, with three panels above, the centre one being medallion-shaped, the whole bordered with gilt mouldings and lines, and the field of the panels finished in encaustic azure blue, the surrounding margins being of a warm cream colour. The details of the windows are treated in like manner: the spandril panels blue; the enriched column and pilaster caps, the central flowers, the border moulding and lines being gilded; the margin cream colour throughout upon the tops of the main ribs' rests.

The under cornice, from which the dome springs, is suitably massive and almost wholly gilded, the fringe being formed into panels bounded by lines terminating at the ends with a gilt fret ornament. Each compartment of the cornice is marked by a bold enriched gilt console, which forms at once the support of the main rib and a base for statuary. The feet of these ribs is designed for colossal marble statues, the advent of which art we ardently invoke. Between the cornice and the floor the space is filled with book-cases and galleries of access, the cornice, standards, and railings of which are wholly gilded, the panels of the soffites of the latter being blue, having gilded ornaments therein.

It is little more than a century since our great national library, which now contains upwards of half-a-million of volumes, came into existence. In 1753, the first contents of "Montagu House," Bloomsbury, consisted of the Sloane Collection, including only a few books, the Harley MSS., and the Cottonian Library; Parliament providing no money, but, by act, authorising the provision of £30,000 by a *Lottery*! The old mansion continued perfectly sufficient for the whole miscellaneous contents of the Museum until a few new rooms were added for the Egyptian antiquities obtained in 1801, and for the Townly Marbles. In 1823 the present entirely new building, designed by Sir Robert Smirke, became necessary. Montagu House was finally levelled with the ground in 1845, the new portico being only finished April 19, 1847. It is worthy of record that in the month of July, 1759, only five readers attended the public reading-room. Now there are several hundreds. Some years ago, "The Times" newspaper, while complaining that the quiet recesses of the library were closed against men of letters, and that Hume or Gibbon, if now living, would have to seek knowledge among a mob, thus classified the individuals who frequent the reading-room:—60 writing for periodicals, &c.; 250 reading novels; 100 looking at prints; 4 lunatics sent there to be out of harm's way.

CHINESE NOTES.

EFFECT OF A DEFEAT UPON A MANDARIN.

To deceive the Emperor of China in matters affecting the dignity of the Celestial Empire, and his own importance in particular, seems to be considered a duty by those in authority; so that until matters have reached an extreme point, his imperial and celestial majesty remains in unaltered tranquillity—as, indeed, becometh a brother of the moon.

The case is different, however, with the viceroy of a province. Being in his own person the executive, he is the Bonapartes who is to be met face to face by any adventurous barbarian who may have had the temerity to displace his vice-imperial boots. Thus at Canton, the head-quarters of the seat of war, Governor Yeh is, in point of fact, our real opponent; he it is who has declared war to the knife with all the world outside of China, and on his own personal responsibility.

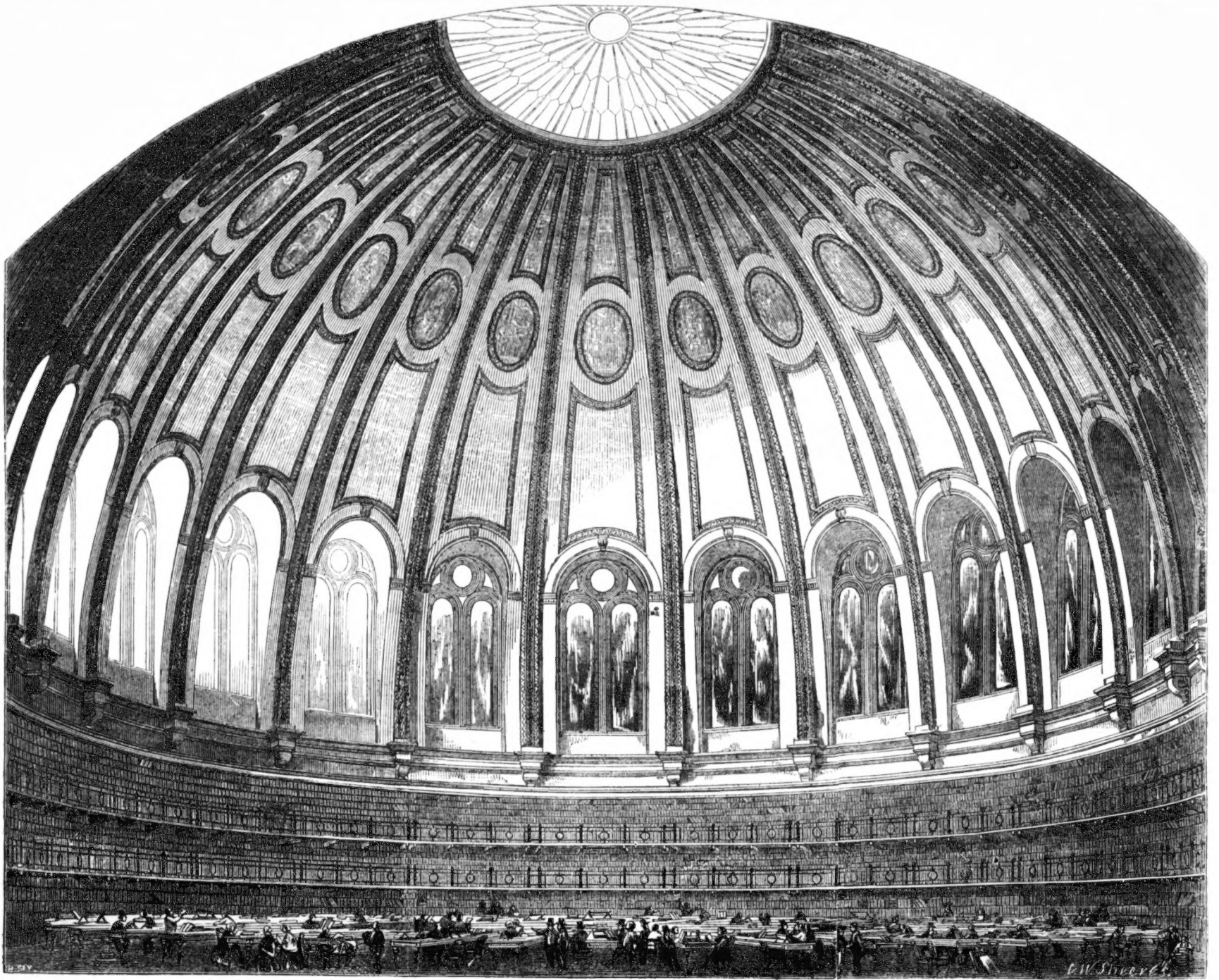
As the result of such perfect independence, Governor Yeh, the Palmerston of China, makes the war a personal affair. A defeat is a private injury, and woe to the unhappy wretch whose duty it is to convey tidings of such a mishap to any mandarin in authority. It is common, we believe, for the attendants of governors, &c., to draw lots on such occasions, to settle who shall be the bearer of the unwelcome tidings; and happy is he if he escape with a moderate bastinadoing for his pains.

CHINESE WAR-JUNKS.

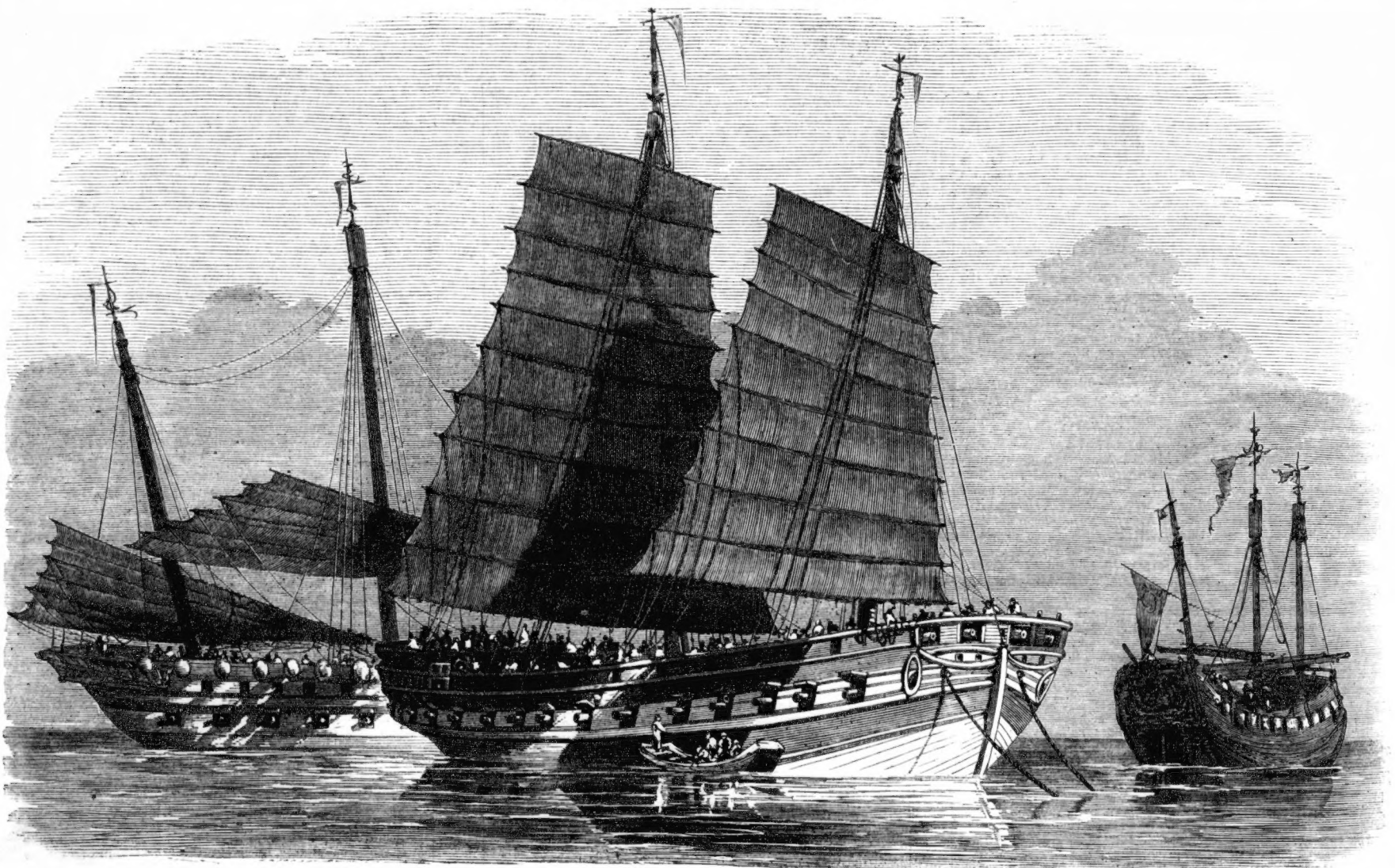
Defective as is the Chinese army, the navy is still more defective. The ill-rigged and worse-manned war-junks, or "soldier ships," are very indifferently fitted to cope with European vessels of war; and few things could have more astonished the Celestials than the appearance and power of our war steamers, when first they entered the yellow waters. Their present war-junk, however, is a decided improvement on the old style, and approximates somewhat more nearly to the English model. The hull is fashioned pretty much in the European manner, and the guns, instead of being huddled together on the deck, where they looked as if they wondered how they got there, are ranged as in our ships of war. The guns are usually good, being in almost all cases manufactured by Europeans. The masts and rigging, however, are little improved—nor are the sailors; who are about the worst material in the world to make tars of.

The old junks were in reality nothing more than large flat-bottomed barges with two masts, the greatest of them being from 200 to 300 tons burden. The head of the old junk was unprovided with any bowsprit, and the bows were curled up into two wing-like appendages, between which the cables were worked. On the outside were painted two enormous eyes, as in some models of ancient Egyptian vessels found in the tombs at Thebes. The stern was elevated, the rudder working in a low recess to protect it from the rays of the sun. These had no topmasts, and but one sail on each mast; the strain of the wind, therefore, acted solely on the cumbersome sails, since there were no shrouds, and but few stays.

The attention of the Chinese Government was long since drawn to the inefficiency of the Imperial navy, in consequence of its repeated failures in repelling the attacks of the pirates along the coasts.



THE NEW READING-ROOM AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM.



CHINESE WAR JUNKS.



THE HOUSE OF COMMONS—SWEARING-IN OF THE MEMBERS.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS—NO. 40.

MR. HAYTER'S LETTER.

THE appearance of Mr. Hayter's letter to summon the friends of the Government to the election of the Speaker, suggested to our minds the question, whether "the whip" is an ancient institution, or of modern growth; and though we have not been able to discover any documents which throw much light upon this matter, we have decided that the office in its present form is modern. We do not suppose that it was ever formally constituted; but, like our famous national constitution, it was not made, but grew gradually and slowly from an imperceptible beginning. Still, there can be no doubt that Government always had some method by which it attempted to influence the decisions of the House. In early days threats of the axe and block or imprisonment were brought to bear, and generally induced swift compliance with the will of the monarch. In the Georgian era, especially the early part of it, there can be no doubt that titles, places, ribbons—and even hard cash—were profusely offered to buy the votes of his Majesty's Opposition; and according to Williams, Lord Goderich and others, this mode is not entirely obsolete now; but if so, it is carried on with much more delicacy and privacy than it used to be. Hard cash we do not believe is ever offered—nor do we suppose these formal bargains are ever entering into. Members now are not abashed nor ravished, nor flagrantly bought—but seduced in a quiet, safe, *subterfuge* sort of manner, with bows, delicate attentions, invitations, introductions, syren songs; and if need be, and if the refractory member be of sufficient importance, with offers (not, however, in the vulgar form of purchase money) of substantial place. We have said that in ancient times threats of the axe and block were often resorted to; and, as an instance, we will just show how a refractory Parliament was managed some 300 years ago, or in other words

HOW HARRY THE EIGHTH "WHIPPED" THE HOUSE.

In 1523, his Majesty, impelled by his pecuniary necessities, called together a Parliament, which chose Sir Thomas More for its Speaker. The great Cardinal Wolsey was Chancellor in those days, and it fell to his duty to open the House; and in his speech he stated that "the amending of the laws and the making new ones was the only occasion of the summons," but when did a king's speech tell all the truth? The real reason was, his Majesty was short of cash, and wanted a subsidy of £300,000, amounting to no less than one-fifth part of every man's goods and lands—a great burden, though the payment was to be spread over four years. Indeed, his Majesty felt that he was asking quite enough; and expecting that his faithful Commons might feel some slight objection to being thus copiously bled, it was arranged that Cardinal Wolsey should go down to the House, and try, by his well-known power of persuasion, to make everything pleasant. Now the House, even in those early days, had a very natural jealousy on the subject of admitting persons in authority, not members, into their assembly; but then who dare gainsay Harry the Eighth and the great Cardinal? But still a question arose, and was even much debated, whether the great Cardinal, if he did come, should appear with only a few followers or with all his train. The majority were for his coming quietly; but Mr. Speaker overruled the decision (probably already knowing Wolsey's mind) in the following words:—"Masters, as my Lord Cardinal lately, as ye wote well, layde to our charge the lightnesse of our tongues uttered out of this House, it should not in my minde be amisse to receive him with all his pompe, with his maces, his pillars, his pole-axes, his crosses, his hat, and the great seal too; to the intent that if he finde the like faulte with us, we may lay the blame upon those whom his grace bringeth with him." And so the Lord Cardinal went in state and made an eloquent appeal; but the House making no response, he grew very angry, and demanded "a reasonable answer." Whereupon Mr. Speaker, with a touch of that humour which he could not repress even on the scaffold, falling on his knees, "excused the silence of the House, abashed at the sight of so able a personage, who was able to amaze the wisest and most learned men in the realm." And added, "except all the members present could put their several thoughts into my head, I alone am unable in so weighty a matter to give your Grace sufficient answer." And so his Grace went his way, and reported to his Majesty that there was a hitch in the business, or, in other words, that his "whip" had failed. His Majesty, however, tolerated no hitches—or "itches," as Alderman M. would have phrased it—but did as Lord D. advised the alderman to do, "came to the scratch" at once. For, sending for Edward Montague, Esq., ancestor of the Dukes of Montague and a great parliamentary gun, one of the opposition probably: "Ho, man!" said he to Montague on his knees, "will they not suffer my bill to pass?" then laying his hand on the Honourable Member's head, he didn't promise him a ribbon, or a title, or a place, or invite him to the Queen's ball, as Hayter does to Honourable Members now, when a similar emergency rises, but addressed him in this fashion, "Get my bill passed by to-morrow, or else to-morrow this head of yours shall be off." And to-morrow the bill was passed. And this is how "whipping for the Government" was made in 1523, in the reign of bluff King Hal. And in something like the same fashion it continued to be managed for two or three reigns more, until at last it failed, and his most sacred majesty Charles I. tried to pass his own "little bill" without Parliament, and then Parliament whipped off the King's head on the very spot where King Harry threatened to whip off the Honourable Member's,—to such a length had the nation travelled in a hundred years; and now we are on this subject, we may as well show how far further we have marched and say something on

THE POWER OF PARLIAMENT.

"Parliament," said Sir Edward Coke 200 years ago, "is so transcendent and absolute, that it cannot be confined either for causes or persons within any bounds." This, however, was then rather theory than fact; but now it has become fact, for there is really now but little that Parliament cannot do. It could change the dynasty, if it so willed it; it could abolish the Lords, demolish the Church, secularise its property, and change to any extent its own constitution. Indeed, its power is only circumscribed by the will of the people. There is no wrong that it cannot directly or indirectly remedy (if remedy be possible); no official delinquencies that it cannot take cognizance of and punish. It can overthrow the most powerful government, it can recall governors, ambassadors, and consuls, and depose judges; and its judicial power of impeachment, though it has not been exercised for nearly fifty years, is still an undoubted privilege of Parliament, and might be exercised again if circumstances required its exercise. It is true that many of these powers do not in theory belong to Parliament, but to the Crown; but as the Crown now means the Government of the day, and that Government is responsible to Parliament for all its acts, it is clear that in fact it is Parliament that indirectly exercises or controls the exercise of these powers. Some day we will show how Parliament can constitutionally bring a matter before it which in theory is not within its jurisdiction, and control, and even set aside appointments, which in theory are in the hands of the Crown.

SWEAR!

For several days the House will be entirely occupied in swearing—from twelve to four, nothing but swearing. At four o'clock the swearing must cease; for by law no member can be sworn after that time. When a new member is elected during the session, he takes his seat below the bar; and the Speaker having been informed of his presence, calls out "New members come to the table to be sworn," whereupon the new member proceeds to the table, introduced by two of his friends. But after a general election, the unsworn members sit above the bar, and go up to the table in batches, and are sworn several at a time, as grand juries are. Mr. Speaker is sworn first, and he is sworn simply standing on the top step to the chair. It is worthy of remark, that if there had been a contest for the Speakership, Baron Rothschild could, and doubtless would, have voted, for the election of the Speaker takes place before the administration of the oaths. The fatal words which have been so long a bar to the Baron are to be found in "the oath of abjuration," which means an abjuration or denial of the right of the descendants of James II. to sit upon the throne of these realms. The word occurs in the last sentence, which runs as follows:—"And all these things I do plainly and sincerely acknowledge and swear, according to the express words by me spoken, and according to the plain common sense and understanding of the same words, without any equivocation, mental evasion or secret reservation

whatsoever. And I do make this recognition, acknowledgment, abjuration, renunciation, and promise, heartily, willingly and truly, upon the true faith of a Christian." It is well known that there are now no descendants of James. Why, then, is the oath retained? Why are 654 gentlemen obliged to swear solemnly that they abjure a family which is entirely extinct? Why, because the oath, though useless for the purpose for which it was originally framed, is found to be accidentally very useful for another. It was framed to keep the Stuarts out of the throne—it is perpetuated to keep the Jews out of Parliament. Like Paddy's gun, it shoots round corners; and whilst it appears to be pointed at a Stuart, it hits a Rothschild; or, like a cross-eyed man, it seems to be staring straight forward, when, in fact, it is looking sideways. You would imagine that the oath is looking "O'er the water to Charlie," whereas really it has an eye to St. Saffin's Lane. The oaths taken by the Protestant members are three, viz.:—"The Oath of Fidelity to the Queen," "The Oath of Supremacy," which is directed against the Pope, and the "Oath of Abjuration," mentioned above. Roman Catholics take only one oath, which embodies all the three. Every member has also to make and subscribe a declaration that he is qualified, "according to the true intent and meaning of the act."

PARLIAMENTARY ON DUT.—The report that Mr. Townsend, under-taker and M.P. for Greenwich, intends to give up business on assuming senatorial honours, is contradicted. It is stated that in the House of Commons he will carry on his old trade of a *mule*.

THE MANCHESTER ART-TREASURES EXHIBITION

To the "Illustrated Times," during the months of May, June, and July, will contain

SEVERAL HUNDRED ENGRAVINGS

Of subjects selected from the contents of the Manchester Art-Treasures Exhibition—including copies of the interesting early pictures by German and Italian Masters; a large selection from the series of English Portraits, and from the Gallery of Water Colour Drawings. Some of the works selected for reproduction in the "Illustrated Times" have never yet been engraved, while others engravings are very rare.

The "Illustrated Times" will also present accurately-drawn representations of choice objects in sculpture, ancient and modern; in carved ivory, bronze, porcelain, enamel, glass, and terra-cotta; with specimens from the celebrated Meyrick collection of armour, and other mediæval relics; art furniture, &c., &c.

The next number will contain illustrations of the main features of the

OPENING CEREMONY;

with examples of the magnificent contents of a collection which, once dispersed, will probably never be gathered together again.

INTERESTING TO EVERY CONSTITUENCY IN THE KINGDOM.

Shortly after the meeting of Parliament, the Proprietors of the "Illustrated Times" will publish an extra Number of that newspaper, containing short Biographical Notices of the whole of the Members of the

NEW HOUSE OF COMMONS.

accompanied by their avowed opinions on all the great political questions of the day, and a statement of the chief votes given by such as were Members of the late and former Parliaments. This

PARLIAMENTARY NUMBER OF THE "ILLUSTRATED TIMES" will be rendered still more interesting by the accompaniment of between

ONE AND TWO HUNDRED PORTRAITS OF MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Drawn and Engraved in nearly every instance from Photographs taken by Mr. MAYALL, of Regent Street, for this special purpose. Among these Portraits will be comprised all the Members of the present Government having seats in the House of Commons, the leaders and other prominent members of the different political parties; and, in fact, every individual of note returned to the new Parliament, including a considerable number of representatives who have been elected for the first time.

This extra Number of the "Illustrated Times" will be published at the ordinary price. The purchase of it will not be compulsory on regular subscribers to the paper, but the extra number will not be sold separately from the ordinary Number issued on the same day.

POSTAL DISTRICT MAP OF LONDON,

(Size 2 Feet 3 Inches by 3 Feet.)

The above may still be procured of the Agents for the "Illustrated Times," but it will not be sold separately from No. 100 of the Paper, the price of which, with the Map, is 5d.; or the Map and Paper will be sent, Post free, from the Office on the receipt of Seven Stamps.

It is necessary that FOUR Stamps be forwarded with all applications to the Publisher of the "Illustrated Times" for single copies of the paper. For two copies SEVEN Stamps will be sufficient.

ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 1857.

THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH.

WE have a horror of platitudes, and, in a general way, we dislike enlarging on the "Wonders of the Age." In the first place, the age is proud enough of itself already, and does not need our flattery. In the second place, a glorification of material progress is not the most moral stimulus to apply to a people; nay, it has a tendency to do mischief, by deadening other feelings, and making people indifferent to the evils which grow up with civilisation, and which are so awfully hard to mitigate, much less to abolish. Besides, it is no sign of a healthy state of mind for a nation to lay its chief stress on what it is doing at any one time without reference to what has been done for it by the generations before. And such a process is un-English likewise; for we have ever been a race paying due homage to the Past, out of which we spring. Accordingly, we are in the habit of thankfully acknowledging all modern improvements, without perpetually blowing our nineteenth century trumpet, and insisting that no men or women were ever good, brave, or wise, before they began to travel by railroads, dine by gas-light, photograph each other's faces, and chat with the aid of electricity.

There is a time, however, no doubt, for a little chuckling—more of gratitude than of pride, though pride is human too—when one's century makes a bit; and with the Atlantic telegraph now, as would seem, in a fair way for being successfully established we may be excused for indulging the emotion. We are on the eve of seeing a great discovery embody itself in a vast form. Pope ridiculed a disciple of the doctrine of the bathos, who exclaimed:—

"Ye Gods! annihilate but time and space,
And make two lovers happy!"

It seemed the aspiration of a faustical blockhead; but really we are in a fair way of seeing England and America realise his dream. The two great nations—once let the magic cord settle far down in the immeasurable blue—will whisper together a pleasantly as the poor scribbler's lovers could wish. Pyramus will chat to Thisbe through a wall of sea.

Many noble ships have left both shores of that great ocean—and on high missions; but perhaps never on a mission which so powerfully affects the imagination and awakens the thought of man, as that of the two vessels which are to lay down the telegraphic cable. Meeting and parting in mid-ocean, they will leave, sinking below the wave, a line, which is to be a *nerve* (so to speak) conveying thought and feeling from heart to brain—from brain to heart—of the Anglo-

Saxon body. It will be a deed with many kinds of interest about it poetic—as all is poetic that connects itself with the far depths of the sea; moral—as all is moral that illustrates the dominion of the thought and wit of man over the inanimate and material; political—as suggesting speculation on the consequences of such discoveries to the relations of great states. Let us not think only of the utility of this event, for that were but mean and prosaic. The vast side of it is its poetic side. The Roman *cloaca* are works as great as the pyramids—but how different the emotions they excite! We should be proud of the Atlantic telegraph—not because it will tell us the state of the markets only, but because of its being the last and most wonderful fruit of that quality about man which makes him lord of the planet on which he lives. It will, in fact, have something about it of both the great creations above named—of the quality which constitutes usefulness—and of the quality which inspires wonder.

While such are the leading associations suggested by a prospect of this success, it is necessarily difficult to describe in detail the probable results of it. Let us not be carried away too far in contemplating these. This grand telegraph will only be a bit of machinery, after all, and will work no miracles apart from the moral powers at either end of it on different sides of the ocean. If Britons and Americans grow wiser and truer, the faithful telegraph will help them to improvement and peace. But the days of talismans are gone by. This is no truism; for in the roars of welcome which the success will excite we must expect to find enthusiasts talking, as if a fine bit of agency for assisting us to "progress" really possessed the charms of progress in itself.

We say the telegraph "will help them to improvement and peace," and this is just the power of it. National misunderstandings become less probable as national inter-communication increases—because war is fed by passion—and passion by ignorance—and ignorance is invariable where there is distance and delay. Again, the time occupied by tedious diplomatic intercourse is a dangerous thing; for, during its course, rumours and excitations grow, spread, and feed themselves, which a little negotiation at once in the outset would have stopped. And so we are justified in hoping that a telegraph between England and America will tend to keep England and America united. In another way, too, we shall both get a great benefit. Commercial arrangements will not be so probable, when everything about crops and money-markets is mutually known between the two nations, in time for every precaution to be made. Here are two distinct results of this great conviction obvious at once—and yet we are but on the threshold of the subject.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE BIRTHDAY OF HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS ALICE, who attained the age of 11 years on Saturday last, was celebrated at Windsor with the customary rejoicings. The bells of the Chapel Royal and the neighbouring churches were rung, and royal salutes were fired from the corporation ordnance from Fort Belvidere, and the Royal Adelaide frigate at Virgin Water.

A YOUNG ENGLISH LADY, only fourteen or fifteen years of age, at one of the pensionnats de demoiselles, in Brussels, threw herself out of an upper window, in a fit of home-sickness: one of her legs was broken by the fall.

BARL FITZHARDINGE is suffering greatly from the effects of injuries received whilst hunting.

A "TIFF" is said to have occurred at Constantinople between Lady Redcliffe and Madame Thourvenel, the French Ambassador's wife, respecting a seat in the Church of St. Antony.

THE COMPOSER OF "ADRIANA LECOUVEUR," M. Pera, was called before the curtain thirty times, on the second representation of the opera at Rome.

SIX LONDON DETECTIVES—alert and gentlemanly fellows—were, it is said, sent to act as waiters at the wedding feast recently given by Baron Rothschild.

HERR DUESBERG, the friend of the late Heinrich Heine, whom Madame Heine entrusted with the publication of the poet's literary remains, has succeeded in compiling from Heine's papers a small volume of hitherto unpublished poems, said to be very witty and humorous.

SEVERAL MILLS AND FOUNDRIES have stopped at Preston, owing to the bursting of a culvert in the centre of the Kendal and Preston Canal; some mills were flooded.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF PRUSSIA AND PRINCE FRIEDRICH WILHELM are expected to visit the English Court about the beginning of June.

THE AUSTRIAN ENVOY, PRINCE ESTERHAZY, seems to have been treated with great coldness at St. Petersburg. He is about to leave the Czar's capital, to attend his own sovereign on his visit to Hungary.

THE GERMAN NATURALIST AND TRAVELLER, Dr. Moritz Wagner, is about to undertake a scientific mission in South America, at the expense of the King of Bavaria.

A "COTTON SUPPLY ASSOCIATION," composed of influential members, has been formed at Manchester.

A SUBSCRIPTION BAND is to play regularly every Sunday on Woodhouse Moor, near Leeds.

THE REV. DR. LEE, author of "Lectures on the Inspiration of Holy Scripture," has been elected to the chair of Ecclesiastical History in Dublin University.

A SEVERE SHOCK OF EARTHQUAKE was recently experienced at Palermo. It lasted six seconds, and stopped the astronomical clock at the observatory. There had been a hurricane on the preceding day.

THE DIVISION OF THE DIOCESE OF NORWICH, and the erection of a see at Ipswich or Bury, has been proposed.

THE DILLIGENCE running between the city of Mexico and Vera Cruz was stopped last month by high waymen, who after robbing the passengers, demanded absolution from a priest who happened to be among them; he was obliged to comply, and the robbers then decamped.

MEYERBEER recently married his only daughter to a Prussian colonel, and gave her, as a marriage portion, simply the copyright of "Robert le Diable" and "L'Africaine."

THE PRINCE OF WALES is expected to be present at the meeting of the Archeological Institute, in Chester, next July.

REAR-ADMIRAL SKYMOOR, K.C.B., has obtained a pension for the loss of an eye, of which he was deprived by the explosion of a Russian infernal machine, on board the Exmouth, in the Baltic.

THE PRUSSIAN GOVERNMENT has a complaint against the United States for the kidnapping of Prussians in American ports to man merchant-vessels. For some time past the Prussian Government have advised emigrants to go to Canada or Australia—monarchical colonies, where law is supreme—in preference to Republican America.

THE FRENCH COMMISSION appointed to consider the subject of transportation have recommended the Island of Pines, one of the group of the New Caledonia Islands, as the seat of a new penal settlement.

MR. PHINX, who has for some time fulfilled the duties of Assistant-Secretary at the Admiralty, has resigned his office, and intends to return to his practice at the bar, and perhaps ultimately to Parliament. Mr. Phinx will be succeeded by Mr. Romaine, who distinguished himself while connected with the Crimean army.

LADY FRANKLIN, resolved upon another search in the northern seas, has purchased a steam yacht admirably adapted for Arctic service, and the eminent Arctic voyager, Captain McClintock, has accepted the command of the expedition.

THE CANADIAN PARLIAMENT have voted a subsidy of £50,000 per annum for a weekly line of screw-steamers to England, from the St. Lawrence in summer, and Portland to Maine in winter. Hitherto the voyages have been fortnightly in summer and monthly in winter. An act has been passed establishing a decimal currency from the first of next January.

THE NOVARA, AUSTRIAN FRIGATE, has started from Trieste for a voyage round the world. She carries a number of scientific men.

THE ST. JAMES'S THEATRE was offered for sale by auction last week. The building cost £50,000; the ground, £8,000. Mr. Robins, the auctioneer, suggested that the first bidding should be £30,000; but the first offer was only £10,000, and the highest only £19,900—much less than the reserved price, and therefore the theatre is still for sale.

THE SOUTH TRANSEPT of the ancient conventual church of St. Helen's, Bishopgate, is now visible by the removal of a house; but it is probable that it will again be covered up by a new house.

STRAWBERRY HILL, near Twickenham, which had of late years fallen into a state of decay, that revealed to every passer-by what a sham bath-and-plaster Gothic structure Horace Walpole had created, has been recently repaired; and the Countess of Waldegrave and Mr. Harcourt are now residing there. Last week they received many noble visitors; and on Friday night they gave a grand ball—the first assembly of the kind for many years in Walpole's saloons.

THE DUCHESS OF SUTHERLAND was amongst the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon's congregation at the Surrey Music Hall last Sunday morning.

THE LAUNCH OF THE "ROYAL SOVEREIGN," 131 guns, was successfully performed on Saturday morning. The immense ship glided into the water in usual style and the acclamations of nearly 10,000 persons.

PRINCE LOUIS LUCIEN BONAPARTE is still busily occupied with linguistic studies in the Basque country. He has discovered in the Basque provinces of France and Spain six different dialects of the Basque language, while hitherto only four were known. To prove his discoveries, the Prince will have the Gospel of St. Matthew printed in the six dialects, but only 250 copies will be taken.

THE BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION have determined upon holding their annual congress this year at Norwich, commencing on the 24th and closing on the 29th of August next. It is anticipated that excursions to Ely, Thetford, and other places of interest within convenient distance of Norwich, will be included in the society's programme. The Earl of Albemarle has been elected president of the association.

PROFESSOR ZANTZDORF, of Venice, has given to the world a new instrument for taking observations of the sun; he calls it a spectrometer.

A THIEF, named Lewis, was being conveyed from the prison-van to the Bath Police-court, when he suddenly jumped backwards among the crowd, and took to his heels; he soon distanced his pursuers, and passing through some private houses, went into the coffee-room of an inn, from which he saw the crowd pass. He then quietly walked off.

A PORTRAIT OF THE LATE SIR ROBERT PEEL, painted by Mr. Wood, a pupil of Sir Thomas Lawrence, has been presented to the corporation of Tamworth by the present Baronet. An entertainment was given at the Town Hall in honour of the occasion.

THE PRINCES OF ODEK have been on a visit to Liverpool. Their Highnesses were received by the Mayor.

THE REMAINS OF BISHOP SKINNER, the late primate of the Scottish Episcopal Church, were interred in the Spital burying ground, Aberdeen, on Wednesday week. The appointment of a successor to Bishop Skinner lies with the clergy of the diocese; while the choice of a Primate rests with the whole body of Scottish bishops.

THE IMPERIAL PRINCE has just taken an important step for himself—that is to say, he has walked alone. A correspondent of the "Independence" adds the singular fact that the drill-sergeant was introduced into the nursery on the occasion, to make him go off with his left foot first!

TWO NEWSPAPERS in the Wallachian language have just been started in Paris, for the purpose of advocating the union of the Principalities.

THE VIENNA MUNICIPALITY has, during the last two years, been making a collection for a monument which it is proposed to erect to the memory of Mozart, but, to the disgrace of the music-loving Austrians be it said, only 199l. (£19 19s.) have been subscribed.

THE FIRST PARTY OF EMIGRANTS sent out under the auspices of the Wellington Emigration Fund has sailed. The total number of persons assisted out on this occasion is seventy-eight.

A BAZAAR, under the patronage of the Earl and Countess of Shrewsbury, Viscountess Chetworth, Lady Byron, and others, was held last week at the Polytechnic Institution, in aid of the Poor Street and Dark Lane Ragged Schools, Westminster: a very useful charity, and every way worthy of public support.

THE FREEDOM OF THE CITY OF EDINBURGH is to be presented to Dr. Livingstone.

SIGNOR SAFFI, ex Triumvir of the Roman Republic, delivered an eloquent lecture on the past and present condition of Italy, at Dalkeith, on Friday week.

THE SENATORS of Marischal College, Aberdeen, have conferred the degree of LL.D. on James W. Winchester, Esq., an alumnus and A.M. of the University, Medical Resident and Superintendent of the district of Mahabuleswar, in the Bombay Presidency, and author of various papers on subjects connected with the East.

A CHILD, whose parents live near the Wandsworth Road, climbed upon a chair near the fire, and overbalanced himself. He caught at the handle of a saucepan of boiling water, fell, and drew the saucepan over him, scalding his head, shoulders, and chest so severely, that he soon after died in intense suffering.

A COLLECTION OF ESSAYS, by Sir John F. W. Herschel, from the Edinburgh and other Reviews, is announced for publication.

A TESTIMONIAL is to be presented to Mr. Masterman, on his retirement from the representation of the City of London.

THE DUCHESS OF NORFOLK gave birth to a daughter on Monday.

THE INTENDED MONUMENT to the late Jos. Brotherton, Esq., M.P. for Salford, is to consist of a monument over his tomb in the Salford cemetery, at New Barn, and of a bronze statue in Peel Park, Salford. The commission for the statue has been given to Mr. Matthew Noble, and its cost will be 1,000 guineas.

DEATH OF THE DUCHESS OF GLOUCESTER.—We regret to announce the death of her Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester, which took place a few minutes after five o'clock on Thursday morning, at Gloucester House, Piccadilly.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.—Both Houses of Parliament met on Thursday. In the Upper House, no business, beyond administering the oaths to several Peers, was done. The Commons, after being summoned to the House of Lords, proceeded to the election of a Speaker, when Mr. Evelyn Denison was unanimously chosen. The Ministerial side of the House was crowded, while the Opposition benches were but thinly occupied.

FASHIONS FOR MAY.

THE important question in relation to spring fashion turns on the form of mantelets. Several new shapes have been introduced, but none which is likely to be more generally approved than that shown in our illustration. As the fine weather advances, the same form of mantelet will be made in coloured as well as in black silk. Violet, dark green, or blue, made in this style will be found to be extremely elegant and *distingued*. All the newest mantelets are profusely trimmed with fringe, passementerie, ruffles, or lace, and frequently one or two, or even all, of these trimmings are brought into juxtaposition.

With regard to the make of dresses, we need only remark that as many are made with as without basques. Flounces are still predominant for silk dresses of superior style; nevertheless, many skirts are made without flounces, but then they are exceedingly full, and ornamented with side trimmings, of which there are frequently no less than three or four rows disposed longitudinally at each side of the skirt.

In reference to evening dresses, we may notice one recently completed by a fashionable Parisian modiste. It may be said to belong to the domain of fancy rather than to that of fashion. It has been accurately copied from the celebrated portrait of the Marquise de Pompadour in the gallery of Versailles; and it is very curious to observe how very closely it approximates to the fashion of the present day; at least it does not differ so materially from the style of dress now prevalent as to present anything *outré* in effect. The robe is composed of that rich kind of silk called lampas, and of a bright tone of cerulean blue; the skirt, which is exceedingly full, and open in front, showing under it a jupe of the same silk as the dress. The corsage is half high, cut square in front, and trimmed with Mechlin lace. It opens to a point in front, in the style of a stomacher; and under the opening there is a *plastron*, or front piece, of white satin, having three bows of white satin ribbon disposed longitudinally down the centre. The sleeves are very narrow from the shoulder to the elbow, and are finished by a broad frill of lampas, below which are three deep falls of Mechlin lace. Above the silk frill there is a plaiting of white satin ribbon, finished by a bow. The lady for whom this dress was made wore with it a magnificent set of jewels, consisting of emeralds and pearls.

THE ILLUSTRATIONS.

One figure shows a dress of brown silk, ornamented up the sides of the skirt with rows of embroidery in sewing silk, of a shade darker than that of the dress. The corsage is plain, and embroidered to correspond with the skirt. The sleeves are slit open from the shoulder downward; they are ornamented with the same embroidery, and the open edges are connected together by bands of embroidered silk. Under sleeves of India muslin, worked in small spots, and having turned-up cuffs of needlework castellated and edged with narrow Valenciennes. Collar of the same. Bonnet of French chip, trimmed at the edge of the front with folds of pink silk, and on the crown with a row of pink fringe. On one side a bouquet of pink azaleas. The cloak is of black silk, with a deep fall of guipure set on the cloak itself, and extending from one shoulder to the other. Above and below the guipure a row of rich fringe intermingled with jet.

The other figure exhibits a dress of blue Chinese taffety, with three broad flounces embroidered in black silk, and a tablier front embroidered in the same manner. The corsage has bretelles, and the sleeves, which are very wide, are slit open to the shoulder and trimmed with four flounces, also ornamented with embroidery in black silk. The under-sleeve are of sprigged muslin, confined at the wrists by bands of needlework, and trimmed with small bows of blue ribbons. Bonnet of white crape lace, drawn in *bouillons*, between each of which there is a row of narrow white blonde. On one side a small feather. Under-trimming, roses and heart.

Little Boy's Dress.—Skirt and jacket of tartan poplin; the latter trimmed with narrow bands of black velvet. Collar and sleeves of fine lawn. Cap of black velvet, with a band of gold lace. Trousers of percale edged with scalloped needlework.

THE WATER-COLOUR EXHIBITIONS.

THE OLD SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER-COLOURS.

THERE is a foolish notion industriously disseminated by bad painters and poets, that the Critic is a personage of an essentially malevolent, cruel, envious, and uncharitable disposition; that nothing delights him so much as to censure, carp, sneer at and detract from merit; and that when even he condescends to commend it is only to "damn with faint-praise." This is a grievous error. The critic, on the contrary, is an entity abounding with love and charity, overflowing with the milk of human kindness, and with a heart as soft as toast and butter. He may be likened to the affectionate father of a large family—patient, loving, kind, and forbearing. Still, even paternal kindness and forbearance have their limits; and when the critic, like the father, finds one of his numerous offspring incorrigibly perverse and opinionated, he is compelled by a rigid sense of duty—the tears of compassion running down his cheeks meanwhile—to take him in hand and correct him with stripes.

This little apologue is intended specially to reach the address of Mr. John F. Lewis, President of the Society of Painters in Water-colours, honorary member of the Royal Scottish Academy, Walton-on-Thames, or Athenaeum Club, London. With the rest of the "old" water-colour boys and girls the critic has this year very few faults to find: for, with very few exceptions, they are very good boys and girls indeed.

Mr. J. F. Lewis has on the fourth screen of the gallery exhibited a large picture in water—rather body colour—which he calls "Harem Life, Constantinople" (302). We do not quarrel with the orthography of the word "Harem." We have not been "coached" lately in our Turkish, and for aught we know the Turkish word may be correctly spelt "*Stschichouehk*," and the Turkish sofa "*Dieiwahale*." We do not quarrel with Mr. Lewis's drawing: it is faultless. With his perspective: it is correct. With his shadows or his lights: they are according to the law and the prophets of the sun. But we do quarrel with a painter possessing so much genius, so much solid learning in his art, so much (and such marvellous) manipulative skill and power of rendering detail, who calmly chooses to make a blot of his talent and a shuttlecock of his fame by painting such a picture as the "Harem Life." All the genius, learning, power and skill with which this artist has been gifted by Heaven, or which he has acquired by study, are employed here—and for what? To be wantonly frittered, thrown away. A stupid fat-faced woman sits on a wonderfully painted divan, by an open window. The unmeaning face is painfully stippled into intricate blue shadows, from the midst of which eyes and lips such as the artists on the chain pier at Brighton cut out with scissors protrude their sticking-plaster forms. This woman has on a dress whose minutest threads, sprigs, hems, are rendered with a skill that seems to combine the cunning of Micris in rendering foliage, of Abraham Mignon in insects, of Van Huisum in flowers, of Gerard Douw in needle-work and embroidery, of Stern-wick in architecture, of our modern Pre-Raphaelites—Millais, Hunt, Rossetti—bar none—in stern, agonizing fidelity of imitation. There is an attendant slave, white out hideous to look upon as an Albino, whose head is faithfully reflected in a glass. There is an Oriental pattern on the wall, vast in extent, eye-confusing in repetition of form—a very kaleidoscope of decoration, painted with an astonishing neatness and minuteness that would do honour to—one of Mr. Craze's paper-hangers. There is a fan of peacock's feathers, finished to every lash in every plume; a cat, whose each particular hair is manifest. There are shawls whose every thread you can descry; silk that would set your teeth on edge to draw your nails over; satin that would catch at the pores of your flesh, were you to pass your finger over its surface. There are diamonds that really sparkle, gauzy curtains that really wave; and—the picture is utterly devoid of nature, of taste, of expression, and of truth. It is the twin-brother to some drawing on rice paper, by a Chinese artist. Go your ways forthwith to the banks of the "Tang-se-Kiang" or the "Woang-ho," Mr. Lewis. Abide in a porcelain pagoda, let your nails grow, shave your head, and encourage a pigtail. Marry a wife with small feet, and order stewed rats and barbecued poodle for dinner. Rub Indian ink in a saucer, and paint pictures for his Celestial Majesty, of Yeh exterminating the red-headed barbarians, or Ah-lum giving Bow-Ring his gruel, or else mend your ways at home, Mr. Lewis, as well you know how to do. Paint us good, sound, natural, honest pictures. Fling all these willow-pattern trickeries, these gaudy apertunances to the winds, and we will sound your praises on a trumpet that shall silence the great Haarlem Organ and the Alexandre Harmonium.

Mr. Burton, of Munich, has contributed a very notable picture to this Exhibition: the subject, "Faust's First Sight of Margaret" (130). Margaret trips along lightly with a queer little doggie trotting before her. Faust sees her—starts forward; his heart catches fire at the first spark; there is no one to extinguish the flame, and he is a "gone coon" before you can say Goethe. Mephistophiles looks on and chuckles. Mr. Burton's picture is a good, and, to a certain extent, a great production; but it is full of faults. The figure of Faust, drawn and foreshortened with much erudition, is placed in a ridiculous and preposterous attitude; the legs look like those of a pair of compasses, and the garments appear to be inflated by means of crinoline and gutta serena tubing. But to the Margaret we can award all praise. She is here the earth-angel that Goethe imagined her: innocent, girlish, timid, yet confiding; light-hearted, yet pensive; a "thing of beauty, and a joy for ever." The Mephistophiles of Mr. Burton's picture is insignificant, a sneering gnat, and not a sneering devil. And, since when, Mr. Burton, we pray you, since when has Mephistophiles been represented with a black, instead of a red cock's feather?

This good work (it is good, errors excepted) is largely and nobly executed, so full of sound drawing and firm shadows as an honest cavalier of a painter loves to execute his work withal. 'Tis only the Roundheads of Art who give us wishy-washy compositions like album vignettes. We think this picture of Faust and Margaret will make a noise in the world, and it deserves to do so.

Mr. Carl Haag sends some vigorous, mellowly-painted heads of Italian men and women, as mellow and vigorous almost as Rembrandt's, unobscured by the smoke of a century and a-half. "The Imprisoned Improvisatore" (119) is a capital dungeon interior. "The Evening Hour" (178) a pifferari piping to some goats, is lighted up with a ruddy glow most artistically evoked, and the boy piping is most forcibly drawn. "A Sabine Lady" (273) is a splendid head of a masculine woman, massed in with broad and nervous touches; the "Tambourine Girl" is warmly and roundly given; and the "Roman Pilgrim" (112) is a remarkably fine portrait, somewhat recalling the manner of Domenichino in treatment. We must object to the profusion of scarlet veins in the hands, however. So sanguinously are they rendered, that we were inclined to suspect the "Roman Pilgrim" to be an English Baronet in disguise.

"Schloss Elz" (105) by William Callow, is a good, gray landscape. The drawing and perspective are excellent, and Mr. Callow disdains body-colour, and gives us the genuine article—the pure water-colour. The "Welsh Style" (31) by Jos. J. Jenkins, shows us a pretty little maiden tripping up a short ladder over a hedge, and sportively afraid lest a wicked little goat who is following should catch sight of her pretty ankles. Mr. David Cox, senior, lowers on the walls to an alarming extent with those grey, distraught sea and rock pieces of his, that look as though they had once been magnificently finished water-colour pictures, but in some volcanic pit of Titanic rage, had been sponged and smudged and hacked and hewed into an unutterable chaos of muddledom. Mr. W. Hunt is

just as delightfully true to nature, as he has been any time these fifteen years, in his delineations of birds' nests and eggs and primroses. He has a capital head, too, of "A Pocher" (228); such a black muzzled ruffian! such a terror to hares, gamekeepers and landowners! such a nest-egg for the ensuing quarter sessions!

Among the pictures at which we are only enabled just to glance, and observe to be worthy of favourable notice, we may enumerate "Miss Margaret Gillies," "Rosalind and Celia" (208), the "Doorway of Rosslyn Castle" (222) by Samuel Read, the "new member" of the society, and by the same artist a superb interior of "Milan Cathedral," Mr. J. Gilbert's "Duchess reading Don Quixote" (86) (the flesh curiously hatched, as in an engraving, in Mr. Gilbert's usual style). "Highland Drovers" (79) an animated study of cattle and sheep somewhat loosely drawn, but charmingly coloured, by Frederick Taylor; "Chick! chick! chick!" (53) a rustic interior, by H. P. Riviere; a "Venice" by Mr. J. D. Harding; a capital winter scene in a farm-yard (42) by E. Duncan; and a noble transcript of wild nature, the "Scene in Glen Nevis in Inverness Shire" (11) by Mr. T. M. Richardson.

Our readers may have been able to gather from the foregoing remarks that we do not consider the works to be exhibited this year to be exactly on the high road to perfection; still no man can leave the galleries of these two societies, without feeling proud of the English school of water-colour, and of the English water-colour painters.

THE NEW SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER-COLOURS.

The New Society of Painters in Water-colours opened their doors to the public, for the twenty-third annual time, on Monday last.

It gratifies us much to have to record our opinion that the present exhibition is a highly satisfactory one. There are very many excellent water-colour drawings in the gallery; not a few admirable ones; and more than one example of proficiency in the art of which Turner and Girtin were the co-script fathers, which are not only excellent, not only admirable, but splendid.

For true nobility of treatment and grandeur of style commend to us Mr. Louis Haghe. He is the *grand Seigneur*, the *preux chevalier* of the water-colourist's craft. Broad, simple, and stately, his drawings are such as an English gentleman might love to print, and an English gentleman be pleased to purchase. The drawing marked 71 in the catalogue is left without a title, but illustrates an episode of the sixteenth century, telling how a certain painter called Cornelius Vroom embarked for Spain with several of his religious pictures, hoping to dispose of them there; how he and his companions were wrecked near the Spanish coast, but were enabled to reach a rock called Los Berlingos; how parts of the wreck, with the works of Vroom, were drifted on shore, and found by the monks of an adjacent convent, who, seeing these pious pictures, were convinced that the wreck must have been manned by Christians, and sent a boat with provisions in search of them; how Vroom and the rest were saved and brought back to the convent; and how on their arrival they offered their thanks to Heaven in the chapel, round which were hung the pictures, more or less injured, to which they owed their deliverance.

Mr. Louis Haghe knows all about convent life. He was initiated into it long ago. Simon the cellarer is his friend. He has had a quarrel with Mr. Browning's Brother Lawrence. He was by when:—

"Dixit Abbas ad Prioris
Tu es homo boni moris—
Quia semper amoris
Munuscula conlatis."

The monks have shown their tonsured crowns, and gone over their scapularies, and tolled their big bell, and intoned their vesper hymns from big sheets of music-paper, covered with gigantic minims and breves, for his especial use and benefit. We almost feel inclined to call him Padre Haghe, and to beg for his blessing. Seriously, since the days of the famous Frenchman Granet—whose curious conventual tableaux, full of strange *lours de force* of chiaroscuro, and violent perspective and weird reflected lights must be familiar to our art-readers—we have had no such faithful, graphic and vigorous depicter of monastic life as Mr. Haghe. The monks in this (71) drawing, contemplating the pious pictures with reverence, curiosity, compassion, are nobly done. There are all sorts of monks here. Old monks, young monks, ecstatic monks, lazy monks, envious monks, philosophical, hypocritical, sensual and idiotic monks; but all true to monastic and monkish nature. Mr. Haghe's next picture, "A Public Letter-writer in the Remains of the Theatre of Marcellus at Rome," (97) is distinguished by that breadth and vigour of treatment which so eminently characterise this artist; but we quarrel with the subject. We have had the foreign letter-writer—the *Escribain public*, the *Scrivano*, the *Escribano*, not once, but a hundred times too often. If Mr. Haghe wishes to find a public scribe nearer home, let him go down to the Jewry of London—we don't mean the Old Jewry out of Cheapside, but the Israelite quarter between Duke's Place and St. Mary Axe—and there he will have no difficulty in discovering, in the heart of London, real Hebrew scribes, in little dens in appearance between cobblers' stalls, pulpits and watch-boxes, writing in real Hebrew characters on longitudinal slips of paper that look like the real rolls of the law. Surely such scribes would be more interesting than the worn-out old Italian gaffers, scribbling love letters for the obsolete *contadine* and *pifferari*.

Mr. E. H. Corboud is this year as industrious as ever, exhibiting four works of large dimensions. The "Scene at a Prussian Fair—Birthday of the King Friedrich Wilhelm IV." (82) is an extraordinary composition crowded with faces and figures of large proportions, yet all finished to miniature smoothness. Mr. E. H. Corboud is an accomplished artist, and his works are always cheerful and pleasing. We should be glad, however, to see him turn his facile pencil to worthier uses than are here displayed. The "Prussian Fair" is a mere apotheosis of *lager-mier* and *meerschäum* pipes.

Mr. Charles Vacher has some lurid Algerian scenes. One, "The Environs of Messilah, with the Tomb of Sidi-bou-Saad" (111), is quite blinding and scorching in its tone; and, to judge from the *couleur locale* our brother Sidi-bou-Saad departed, must have rather a warm time of it in his tomb. The President of the Society, Mr. Henry Warren, exhibits six works—the most noticeable of them an elaborate drawing of "A Street in Cairo, with a Marriage Procession" (218). The scene is full of the animation and bustle of that picturesque city of veiled women and donkey-drivers. Mr. Fahey modestly storms the gallery walls with no less than nineteen water-colour drawings! Many of these are mere sketches; but all are marked by the freshness and crispness of this versatile artist. His tiny picture of "Aberglaslyn Bridge" (88) is quite a gem of rural beauty.

Mr. William Telbin and Mr. T. H. d'Egville contend this year for the artistic possession of "Venice Preserved" in water colours. We must give the palm to Mr. Telbin, whose "Piazzetta" (191) is a really magnificent, drawing—mellow, luxurious, and poetical. Mr. d'Egville's "Lagune Burano and Mazzorlo in the Distance" (192) has many commendable features. But this artist's colour is somewhat gloomy, his shadows somewhat cumbrous, and his brightest sunshines always seem to portend a storm.

Mr. Rowbotham hangs out his sign eighteen times in the Exhibition. He has some pretty Italian views—the larger and more ambitious ones rather patchy and feeble, but the smaller drawings almost enchanting in their beauty. They are all very blue, all very sunny, all very soft, and very nearly all of them are marked "sold." Mr. J. S. Prout, in the "Porch of Rouen Cathedral" (2) and some old street scenes in Chester, follows not unworthily in his father's footsteps—he lacks the "good reed pen" of the formidable paternity, though. "Entrance to Boscate, Cornwall—Pilot-boat Going Out" (11), by S. Cook, is a very misty, sketchy, watery affair; but as Cornwall is to us as yet a *terra incognita*, we must accept Mr. Cook's definition of the outward settlement of harbours and pilot-boats in the land of "Tre, Pol, and Pen." Mr. G. Howes's "Bacharach on the Rhine" (49) shows us some picturesque old houses, massively and squarely treated. Mr. D. H. McKean, in "An old Grey-stone, Lynmouth" (74), is good enough to frame and glaze an unsightly lump of matter—animal, vegetable, or mineral—and tells us that it is a picture. "Calais Pier" (93), by J. H. Robins, is an amusing foot-note to that other "Calais Pier," painted by a certain party who left his pictures to the nation. Mr. John Absolon is, according to custom, indefatigable in delineating the country life of England during the last century. "Praise God, from whom all



FASHIONS FOR MAY: WALKING DRESSES.

blessings flow" (115), is the interior of a country church at service time; the execution slight and washy, as is invariably the case with Mr. Absolon—but the conception pretty, and the treatment pleasing. Miss Pamela Andrews is evidently in the organ-loft; Mr. B. is in the squire's pew; and right in the foreground, on a free seat, sits, without a doubt, Pamela's

father, old Gaffer Andrews, who is come to see that his daughter is not running into harm's way, and will imbibe that immortal "quart of ale" after church.

Mr. W. H. Kearney, in "Love's Young Dream, an Incident in the Early Life of Vandyke," (41) which we have this week engraved, has not only

told an interesting story excellently well, but has produced a picture remarkable for many estimable qualities. But let us tell the story of "Love's Young Dream" first, before we allude to its execution. Vandyke, the chroniclers say, at the commencement of his artistic career, fell desperately in love with a country girl residing at the village of Lavelthem, near Brussels, named Anna Van Opham. At her persuasion he painted a picture for the parish church, representing St. Martin dividing his cloak with a beggar, treating the subject in the same manner as his master, Rubens had done. As soon as Rubens heard of his pupil's infatuation, he hastened to Lavelthem, and by his unexpected presence put an end to the dream in which the youthful painter had for some months indulged. He took a hasty leave of his mistress, and started for Italy.

Vandyke is in his studio, in Mr. Kearney's drawing, enjoying "Love's young dream" to its veriest quintessence: a joyous, likely, handsome, laughing young gallant, he who was afterwards to become the dignified Sir Anthony Vandyke, the friend and courtier-painter of Charles the First in England, looks here—affectionately clasping, as he does, the seductive Anna van Opham, who is a regular Flemish beauty, short, plump, fair-haired, and fair-skinned, with from eight to ten of the regular Flemish-linsley-wolsley petticoats—a sufficient number of which, Mr. W. H. Kearney tells us, are the recognised bulwarks to Low Dutch virtue—and the prettiest of feet and ankles prisoned in the regular Flemish blue stockings. There is wine on the table. It is all youth, joy, love, happiness, romance: we feel inclined to cry, *I curse*, Anthony Vandyke, and to throw our eldest slipper after him for luck; but, fearsome sight to see, the presence of Magister Rubens becomes manifest behind his pupil's back. A grave, decorous gentleman, Magister Rubens, and evidently determined to stand no nonsense from his wayward scholar; for art is a jealous mistress, and Rubens a jealous master, and all the fat of the House of Vandyke is cast into the fire, and "Love's young dream" is dispelled for ever.

Mr. Kearney's water-colour drawing—or rather picture—is a meritorious work of art. The likenesses are faithful. The contrast between the careless jollity of the young painter, the stately composure of the master, and the simple, trusting, unreasoning love of the village maiden, cannot see—poor child, how should she?—that her Anthony is wasting time irretrievably in making love instead of painting immortal pictures; this contrast is most ingeniously and happily wrought out. Good drawing, freedom and yet care in handling, and warmth and breadth of colour, are specially noticeable throughout the work. We have but one fault to find with "Love's Young Dream;" and to find it, perhaps, is to be hypocritical. On a side-table in the background we notice a violin and a bow, giving the spectator reason for inference that Vandyke was addicted to the practice of that branch of the *ars musica*. Now Mr. Kearney should be cautious. We must have chapter and verse in these matters. "No scandal," it is well known, can be allowed "about Queen Elizabeth;" and it is something very like scandal even to hint that Vandyke ever played the fiddle. Brouwer might have done so—Ostade, Mieris, Dirk Stoop; but Vandyke, the gentleman—Vandyke, the pupil of the learned and courtly Rubens—Vandyke, the after-painter of that noblest of portraits, the Gevartius—never. Amidst all the follies of turbulent youth, he would have avoided "the fiddle and the bow." He might have paid others to fiddle to him, but would not have fiddled himself. And Mr. Kearney's picture must be (as it is) a very good one, when we can only take so trivial an exception to it.

Mrs. Margetts displays and superb fruit-piece—"Bacchanalian Cup, Grapes, &c." (78); and Mrs. Fanny Harris some exquisitely-finished drawings of flowers. Altogether, there is much to praise, and very little to censure, in this twenty-third trial of strength of the new water-colour painters, who do not seem by any means inclined to rest on their oars, but have in view evidently the sage injunction to "keep moving."



LOVE'S YOUNG DREAM.—(FROM A PICTURE BY W. H. KEARNEY.) IN THE EXHIBITION OF THE NEW SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.

THE BADDINGTON PEERAGE.

BEING THE LIVES OF THEIR LORDSHIPS.

A STORY OF THE BEST AND THE WORST SOCIETY.

BY GEORGE AUGUSTUS SALA,

AUTHOR OF "A JOURNEY DUE NORTH."

(Continued from page 270.)

CHAPTER THE FOURTEENTH.

TIMES, SCENES, AND PEOPLE CHANGE.

GEORGE the gentleman, by the grace of the Act of Settlement King of England, Pavilionsburg, and Virginia Water, Defender of the Faith—in curly brown wigs, fur collars and white kid pantaloons—slept with his progenitors, George the bad-oyster-eater, George the Hogarth-hater, and George the madman; and another king reigned in his stead who knew not Perdita, and refused to believe in the "Lass of Richmond Hill." William the Radical—the good, though slightly "cracked" sovereign—was King of England; and the year of grace was eighteen hundred and thirty-five.

Now, in those days there was a great city of ships on the river Mersey, in England—a city which was vast and astonishing to look upon then, but which has grown inconceivably vaster and astonishing in our own day. Once a marshy pool, the resort of that now fabulous wild-fowl the Liver, who stalked about on his attenuated legs in places where now are Custom House long-rooms and Exchange halls, where merchants, shipowners, and cotton-brokers meet and chaffer out their money bargains;—once an inconceivable seaport, muddy and fishy, and to the "running" of contraband cognac and surreptitious silk goods much addicted;—then enriching and enlarging itself by a grim perseverance in not the most reputable branches of commerce and industry in the world, such as crimping, kidnapping, and especially slave-trading;—then a huge emporium of trade, famous among maritime cities, but unrepresented in Parliament, and in the municipal scale weighing not half so much as some mouldy little cathedral town in an agricultural county, with the grass growing in its High Street, and an enlightened constituency of sartorial and sutorial pot-wallopers;—and then at last LIVERPOOL, twenty years since as now, Empress of Marts, sending forth galleons and caravels, bi-remes and tri-remes, to the uttermost ends of the earth—with its Tyne on the Lancashire, and its Sidon on the Cheshire coast; with its acres of docks, its miles of ships, ships, ships, and still more ships; its bursting bonding warehouses, its gabbling 'Change, its narrow lanes choked up with men feverishly, breathlessly, pursuing Mammon; its overflowing shops; its merchant-palaces, crime-and-wretchedness-breathing cellars; foundries, shipyards, taverns, jails, wealth, squalor, magnificence and dirt.

In those days Liverpool had a Sister (who lives and flourishes greatly to this day), called Manchester, living some five-and-twenty miles off. This sister being as comely, and famous, and prosperous as she; and the commencement of her splendour having been nearly coeval with her own, it was not unnatural that she should hate her heartily; a thing which occurs sometimes among brothers and sisters, made of quite other materials than bricks and mortar. She contemptuously called her sister's sons "Manchester men," while her own offspring she denominated "Liverpool gentlemen." Her sister was not slow to retort. Liverpool having spoken slightly of Salford, Manchester abused Birkenhead (both sisters agreed in denouncing Warrington). Liverpool said Manchester was grimy with smoke, and disfigured with cotton fluff. Manchester said Liverpool reeked with the odour of tar and hemp, and the blood of enslaved niggers cried for vengeance from the very pedestal of Huskisson's statue. In truth the sisters were as reciprocally rude as the celebrated Saucepan was to the Kettle of proverbial history.

Their rivalry was meteorological too. Manchester gloried in having more rainy, and more dreadfully rainy, days than any other town under the sign of Aquarius. Forthwith Liverpool enlisted under the united banners of Leo and Scorpio; and while her sister drenched you with rain, she baked or broiled you with fierce sunshine.

One certain July afternoon in the year 1835, it being of course a day of pouring rain in the city of chimneys, it was a gloriously, frizzingly hot one in the city of ships. The ships' sides themselves wept tears of tar; and the masts coming in contact with the sun's red-hot-poker rays, burnt their taper fingers, and had blisters of paint on their knuckles. The muton-pies supposed (under the humorous disguise of cats and dogs) to be falling at Manchester, might have been baked to a turn on the broad quay-flags at Liverpool. The nigger cooks aboard ship in the river baked in the hot sun and joyously fried themselves in it. Malays and Cingalese had only one or two shivering fits per diem. Men worth a hundred thousand pounds walked the streets with their hats in their hands, and dabbing their foreheads with cotton pocket-handkerchiefs, till, overcome with thirst, they slid into cool oyster-cellars for ginger-beer, and found their own clerks assuaging their drought with cyder. Dogs had hallucinations, and looked strait-waistcoats and padded rooms in every oscillation of their protruding tongues. The crossing-sweepers cast their brooms aside, and took to gambling in shady nooks. The Mayor's servants regretted for once their scarlet waistcoats—they made them feel so hot; forlorn beggars rejoiced for once that they had no waistcoats at all, and no shirts either—the want of them made them feel so cool. Venders of cool beverages, salad, and shell-fish, rejoiced; and eating-house-keepers who had cooked large joints of meat, cursed in dark pantries. Everybody felt very warm, lazy, thirsty, and inclined to concur in Sydney Smith's desire to take off one's flesh and sit in one's bones. A hot day, and no possibility of doubting it.

Senor Juan Manuel Harispe y Crimpo y Malovo, whose high-sounding patronymics were by the time-saving Liverpoolians abbreviated into "Old Harispe," was of opinion that the day was exceedingly hot, as without coat, waistcoat, or shoes, he sat in a rush-bottomed chair in front of his own house in Liverpool, with a fragrant cigar of considerable length in his mouth and a Panama straw hat of enormous diameter on his head, reading the last false news of the Christina and Carlist squabbles from a ragged old Spanish "Epoca," or "Clamor," of some sort, and ever and anon turning in the rush-bottomed chair to scream out some directions in Iberio-Saxon to an old woman, who might have been desecrated through the open door slaving in a hot kitchen on the ground-floor and at the back of the house, which looked like an interior by Gerard Douw.

If Senor Harispe were of the old Castilian blood—the blue blood—that blood being of the blueness of cheese—I am inclined to think that there was some of the mitiness of the real Stilton combined therewith. The Senor looked not unlike a large human maggot, being sallow as to vestments and complexion, and having an unpleasant habit of wriggling as he sat and crawling as he walked. He was bald too, though that was immaterial, as he seldom removed the Panama straw hat; but as he also wore spectacles, and maggots do not generally affect those aids to vision, or straw hats, or, indeed, cigars or newspapers, I will abandon the maggot simile, and say that the Senor was a very diminutive shrunken man, almost a dwarf, rather crooked, very short-sighted, with a shrill voice and a very vicious disposition.

The Senor was, it was bruited about, a very rich man; yet his mansion was situate in one of the worst and most hideous little streets in Liverpool; though again, hideous as it was, it was hard by the head-quarters of Liverpool wealth and luxury, and rents were prodigious in its limits. In unpleasant neighbourhood was a street the chosen residence of the sons and daughters of Erin, who "waked" their dead as loudly as though they wished to wake all the dead that had died since the Deluge, who broke each other's heads periodically in contentions concerning the Pope of Rome and his glorious, pious, and immortal memory, and whose porcine friends and rent-payers were not always content to dwell in the parlours, but wandered about the neighbourhood, and, like most amateurs, prevented the dogs from earning an honest livelihood.

He lay there, just across the door, enjoying the blazing sun, quiescent, placid, contented, a very lotos-eater, or oriental sunk in trance of *theriarki* or *haschisch*. He was enjoying his "kef," as the Arabs would say. His small eyes were not entirely closed: they indulged in a lazy wink from time to time—a peep at the beneficent luminary which pleased him so much. He lay on his side, his short legs stretched out, a demure smile on his wide mouth, and that which was behind him gently agitated, but only for a moment, ever and anon. He lay there—this sluggish, epicurean, honest fellow of a

Fig—right behind the Senor's rush-bottomed chair, and like him enjoying himself, till the Senor, espying him, was rude enough to administer unto him a sounding kick, with which reminder he stood up on his legs, wagged his curly tail in gentle remonstrance, and, with a series of short squeaks in his well-known falsetto, betook himself to more hospitable regions, and on Phelim O'Doolan's doorstep, with a saucepan-lid for a pillow, and Phelim's youngest but one as his bed-fellow, soundly slept till sun-down.



THE SENOR OBJECTS TO THE COMPANY OF MR. O'DOOLAN'S FIG.

"Margrat, Margrat!" the Senor cried, rushing into his own house in a fury, "pork of she yourself. Vat of this you must these Irish beast of pig still here to drive me mad allow? And why? De dinner he not ready yet, and five hour by San Nicholas he strike already gone. Soon come the Senors and Senorité, and you have yet to cook. Eh! dogless. Tell?"

Senor Harispe's English was fluent,—indeed he had resided fifteen years in England and in Liverpool, but it was peculiar, and its syntax was defective.

"Shure then, Misher Harispe," replied the lady, so ungallantly apostrophised, "an it's all the haste in the wurr'd I'm makin', an' all to plaze ye; an' it's little harm the p'hoor dumb cratures of pigs and things can do takin' a just a hap'orth of sleep on a Christian doorstep. Isn't it slape ye always do in the middle o' the day yerself, Mister Harispe? Though its little of a Christian yes is, ye ould atom of a tree stump," she remarked, confidentially, to a saucepan. "Ye ought to be shown about with the pig-faced lady and gyrl with two heads, ye ould mermaid."

Not particularly troubling herself about the propriety of the application of such an epithet as "mermaid" to her master, Margaret the cook,

and he always took care to inform them where the best English hotels were to be found. He was unmarried—though he lived not quite alone—was avaricious, disagreeable, and insolent, and was almost continually in his shirt sleeves.

A rage being a luxury that cost nothing, was by the Senor not indulged in once a week, but rather once a day, if not ten times during the twenty-four hours. His rages began with an infuriated gobble, like that of a turkey with an indignant apprehension of Christmas and Lendenhall Market in his mind, and usually ended with a prolonged scream. I will not fatigue the reader with an exact recapitulation of the Senor's eloquence, couched as it was in a jargon of mingled Spanish and English. Suffice it to say, that he strewed on "Margrat" or Margaret, the most powerfully perfumed, if not the choicest flowers of rhetoric; and that the epithets he selected to qualify his opinions were mostly of a zoological character. He was fast approaching the climax of the long scream customary in these agreeable ebullitions of temper, when a young person came through a doorway, and laying her hand on his, said in a soft voice, and seemingly not in the least afraid of the redoubtable Senor:



CAPTAIN C. R. D. FALCON "MAKING" LOVE TO MANUELITA.

plunged herself into a grove of stewpans, and to further oburgations made no reply.

Juan Manuel Harispe was the proprietor of a *Fonda Espanole*, a Spanish hotel and restaurant—dirty, dear, and prosperous—and had kept it in the same street in Liverpool any time for the last ten years. He had come to the city of ships steward of an orange-brig, had commenced with a very small, an almost invisible capital, but was now reputed to be very wealthy. He was not popular: among his English neighbours, because he was a

"Uncle of mine, what vexes thee?"

You have seen an angry child, its face all smutched with passionate tears, cheeks flushed, hair flustered, eyes swollen, little hands clinched, instantaneously, at the sight of a glorious picture-book (one penny plain, twopence coloured), or at a droll grimace made by some one of the chosen clowns and self-appointed jesters to children, forbear to wail, unclinch its tiny palms, raise its vexed lids, and smile a smile of Angels. You have seen through the heaviest cloud a ray of the sudden sun come in jolly

triumph and dig its golden finger into the ribs of the storm and laugh its ill-humour away. You may imagine such a look as Napoleon the Great, some day in 1813, sunk in black reverie of ruin and despair, might have cast, as, turning his eyes from a despatch fraught with news of defeat, they lighted on the little King of Rome nestling by his side and smiling in his sleep. So Señor Juan Harispe, screaming with rage, forbore to scream any longer, and was mollified, and looked as benignant as his dwarfish stature and preternatural ugliness would permit him, when the young person came out of the doorway, and laid her hand on his.

CHAPTER THE FIFTEENTH.

HAS RELATION TO A PROFESSOR OF THE BLACK ART.

SHE who had exercised so sudden and salutary an influence on the temper of the proprietor of the "Fonda Fulgencia," as Señor Harispe's establishment was called, was but a slight, fragile, mite of a thing—a young girl who possibly had numbered sixteen summers, but who had certainly not an inkling of their winters.

She was adorably pretty, this young person, and I want smiles to express her prettiness. I myself was once over the crown of my head in love with a young lady, who took it into her pretty, capricious head to fall in love on her part, not with the undersigned, but with a friend he had—one of the handsomest, merriest, kindest, worthiest young fellows, of a family all as handsome, merry, kind, and worthy, and some of them wise. She was always telling me how handsome my friend was; he was "like waxwork," she said; and as I, not aware of any "works" I was like, save perhaps boneworks, and occasionally fireworks, I did not quite relish her encomium upon my friend, and often wished that he were not quite so handsome, feeling that her admiration for him might lead to comparisons with the beauty of another person, and that comparisons are odious. But the "waxwork" shall stand me in stead for a simile now. She—not my she, but that other she—was very like one of those coquettish little Mexican figures which Madame Montanari modelled in wax, and exhibited in the great glass-house of 'fifty-one. A very dark brunette, though with more of the olive and less of the warmer, more coppery, hue of that plastic lady's Indian heroines. But the same lithe, slim, symmetrical limbs; the same blue-black, silky hair, gorgeous in its length and luxuriance; the same rosy lips, shaped like Cupid's bow; the same dark-pencilled eyes—the eyebrows rainbows of the night, the eyelashes silken curtains veiling the alcoves of lustrous pupils, sable, but full of light and mirroring depths, like the pools of ink the magicians of Grand Cairo pour into the palms of their acolytes for them to see strange signs within; the same gleaming teeth, sharp, resentful nostrils; the same dusky bloom on the cheek, like that on a Catherine pear; the same suppleness, tiger-like easiness of altitude, and tiger-like grace, and tiger-like beauty, and, unless I am very much in error, beneath softness and meekness the same capacity for tiger-like—no, not tiger-like, say rather jaguar-like—fierceness and swiftness, when roused for a spring to fasten upon, and rend, and destroy. Then a dress, easy and flowing, which she wore only because she new people must wear dresses, but which she wore with as much impatience as Musidora, and would have dispensed with as readily had there been a green forest and a forest pool at hand; then a dainty mixture of the English and the Spanish in her costume—the muslin robe of a "Lancashire witch," and the high comb and mantilla of a maiden of Seville; then a dimpled hand whose little fingers seemed longing for a fan, but in these commonplace latitudes contented themselves with some needlework in coloured worsteds. Then a tiny foot shod in the neatest, naggiest of bronze kid slippers; then in every movement, gesture, glance of eye, and smile of lip, a burning reminiscence of the South—its suns, its orange-trees, its vines, its blue skies, and its fountains.

She was not the daughter of the Duke of Lerma, or of Medina-Celi. Her name was Manuelita, and she was only the niece of Harispe the hotel-keeper, and was herself only a dancer at the Apollo-Belvidere Concert Hall in Paradise Street, Liverpool.

Her dwarfish uncle certainly loved her—certainly doted upon her—certainly idolised her more than anything, except the money he cozened his guests out of, and which he hid (he mistrusted banks, and mortgages, and all other investments) in rage, old stockings, corners, and in boxes under beds. But he let his Manuelita dance for a salary of five-and-twenty shillings per week, nevertheless. You see money is money; and five-and-twenty shillings are a silver crown more than a golden pound. She was an orphan; father and mother both dead; and he had brought her with him a mere babe when he first came to England. Early she had manifested great talent for dancing; and Harispe had absolutely gone to the length of paying money of the coinage of the realm to have her instructed in *pirouettes* and *entrechats*, first by Mr. Blaber, who taught the Polonaise, the Lancers, and the College Hornpipe, in addition to that genial dance known as the Lancashire Clog-dance, all for twelve-and-sixpence a quarter. But the little girl manifesting a decided leaning to the choreographic art as developed on the boards of Theophrastus, her uncle, after a dreadful internal struggle, so far enacted the part of a generous Cressus as to pay a premium of twenty pounds to Madame Hyppolite, ballet-mistress of the Liverpool Theatre Royal, and was for the space of three years one of that *ci-devant première danseuse*, but as a somewhat wrinkled Terpsichore's multitudinous articulated pupils. The little Manuelita played seraphs and sprites, zephyrs and wilis, peris and houris. She was once (a great Italian lyrical star condescending to visit Liverpool) promoted to play one of the two children of the ill-used Norma (how often have I seen those children knock-kneed and without pocket-handkerchiefs!); and had not her pronunciation of the English tongue, fluent and correct as was her knowledge of the language, been marked by a strong, though very pretty, Spanish accent, she would have been selected to play the part of Puck in the "Midsummer Night's Dream." Madame Hyppolite predicted a great career for her. She offered to produce—to *lancer* her—as she phrased it, at Manchester, at the King's Theatre in London, at the great Académie Royale of Paris itself. She would be a Taglioni and Eislser—stars just then unrivalled in the choreographic firmament. Manuel Harispe was nothing loath to see his Manuelita glorified and himself enriched; but among the idiosyncrasies of the ballet-mistress was one for binding her pupils to her by stringent agreements, making them work like cart-horses, and drawing their salaries. She is Bohemianising about Europe even now, is Madame Hyppolite, a more wrinkled Terpsichore than ever. I think the last time I came across her was at Copenhagen, where she had the seventy-four Molo-Wallachian children whom she had taught to dance like sylphs, but whom she beat, and starved a little—people said.

So Manuelita, her articles being at an end, began to dance on her own account; and Mr. de Joskins, manager of the Royal Apollo-Belvidere Concert Hall, being then in want of a *prima ballerina* to dance between the acts of his heterogeneous entertainment, (which comprised comic and romantic singing, humorous recitations, running in sacks, sacred music, sparring with the gloves, conjuring, ventriloquism, tumbling, dancing and pyrotechnics), offered her the magnificent terms of five-and-twenty shillings per week salary, which at the instance of her uncle she accepted, and the Concert Hall being close by the "Fonda Fulgencia," tripped gaily to Mr. de Joskins's dazzling realms of splendour every night—tave Sunday—at eight, and danced there on her ten toes till eleven. At first, Señor Harispe used jealously to accompany her to and from the Hall; waiting behind the scenes as she danced, and till she had finished; but finding that Mr. de Joskins allowed no smoking in his *casinos*; that if he went in front, even with an order, he was expected to partake of some refreshment which cost money; and being besides fully persuaded of how good a little girl his Manuelita was, he allowed her to go to and from Paradise Street, under the convoy either of Margaret, or of Ogon Alleen, his Spanish and one-eyed head waiter.

Manuelita waited with a pretty patience till her uncle's scream died away into an inarticulate murmur, and said again, and as softly, in Spanish:

"And what vexeth, what aileth thee, uncle of mine?"

"That brute boor, that kitchen woman, to whom the saints send chills, lets greasy Jews of pigs congregate even on my doorstep," replied Harispe, removing the Panama hat for a moment to wipe his bald head.

"And thou knowest, my bird, my angel's pinion feather, that the people will be here soon to dinner. And that beldam hag of Morocco is late as usual.

Wasting the precious oil, and butter, and gravy too, I will be bound, as though they were water. The unburnt sorceress!"

It was one of the great woes and agonies of Manuel Harispe's life that, though he charged them round sums for their board and lodging, he was obliged to give his guests anything to eat at all. To see them eat precious meat, drink up costly soup, and saucers, and call for wine to pour down their insatiable throats, caused him inexpressible unhappiness. He only recovered his equanimity when, referring to a little private den of his own, smelling very powerfully of bees' wax, garlic, and salad oil, he visited the gluttonous delinquencies of his guests by heavy additions to their bills.

"To say nothing, little niece of nieces," he continued, replacing the Panama straw-hat, "that thou, thy dear self, must already be hungry and waiting for thy dinner."

"Say rather," Manuelita interposed smiling, "that thou hast smelt the puchero, and art hungering for it. I am not so hungry—I," she added, half aside, and with half a sigh.

The sigh seemed involuntary, for, blushing, she hung down her head. Why should she blush or sigh—and why wasn't she hungry at dinner time, this little Manuelita?

They called her the "Little Spanish Wonder" at the Apollo-Belvidere Concert Hall—sometimes the "Star of Spain." She drew large sums of money, not for her own, but for Mr. de Joskins's benefit. She had scores of admirers; scores of *billet-doux* were slipped into her hand, or laid on her dressing-room table, or left for her at the stage door, or given to her by too willing emissaries. But she turned a deaf ear to all her admirers, and burnt all the *billet-doux*. All? Well, perhaps she kept one, just for fun, which that grand gentleman sent her—that great dandy in the beautiful coat with the black velvet collar, and the satin stock with the real diamond in it, and the red velvet waistcoat, the gold chain, the eye glass, the little shiny boots, and especially the beautiful moustaches, who came over from Manchester to see Mr. de Joskins, and treated him to champagne, and was so affable and kind, and such a real gentleman. She knew his name too; she had seen it in a red book, called an "Army List," at the circulating library. He was a real captain of soldiers—a captain of Hussars. There it was. "Twenty-First Hussars: Colonel—General Lord Pogueyness, G.C.B.; Lieutenant-Colonel—Snape; Majors—Widgen and Tealston; Captains—ah! now she came to it—"Captains—Machool"—no, that wasn't it—"Sir Tony Lumpkin"—no—"Lord Charles Chiffinch"—no: ah! here he was—"Captain Charles Rook Delahawk Falcon." Mr. de Joskins said that he hadn't much money, but that he was the nephew of the great Lord Baddington, and that he would be a lord himself some day, for that his Lordship was getting very old and feeble now. He was a wild spark too, the Capt. Mr. de Joskins observed. What could a wild spark be? Was Tom Tippecorn, the clown, who drank too much and beat his wife, a wild spark? Was Mr. Rosinupp, the leader of the band, when he ran away without paying his rent—was that wild sparkiness? Charles—Captain Falcon, she meant—could never be a wild spark; he was such a nice gentleman, had such a soft hand, such a sweet smile. He was with his beautiful regiment of horse-soldiers in barracks at Manchester, and came over in his own dog-cart on purpose to see Mr. de Joskins: wasn't that kind of him? He was very young—only twenty-four; and his father, Mr. de Joskins told her, was a grand London gentleman, but he died very suddenly while Charles—Captain Falcon, she meant—was with his regiment at Canterbury. It had all been in the papers, the manager said, and some people had said that the old boy—that was old Mr. Falcon, she presumed—had destroyed himself. But nobody believed that, of course. Poor fellow, to lose his father so early and so suddenly! But he had a mother and sisters alive—he was glad to hear that. Was she glad to hear that? Finally, Mr. de Joskins bade her "play her cards well, and she might make a good thing of it." What was playing her cards well, and what good thing could she make of it by so playing them? She kept Charles's—Captain Falcon's—note just for fun; but she refused to accept the emerald ring he tried to force upon her, and she threatened to box his ears if he attempted to kiss her again. She did not box his ears that night, however, and he drove back to Manchester in his own dog-cart with a peculiar smile of triumph on his countenance.

(To be continued.)

EMIGRATION OF ARTISANS.—A very numerous meeting, composed of the clergy and most influential inhabitants of Woodwich and Plumstead, assembled on the evening of Friday week, in the Town Hall, Woolwich, for the purpose of discussing the best means to assist the discharged artisans and labourers in their desire to emigrate to Canada. Lieutenant-General Sir W. Cockington occupied the chair, and read a letter which he had addressed to Lord Panmure, together with the reply—informing him that his department had not the means of complying with his request in behalf of the men. Sir William then proposed the plan of raising subscriptions. Most of the gentlemen present entered their names for £5 each, to which was finally annexed the name of the chairman for £25.

THE WHITWORTH AND ENFIELD RIFLES.—A very interesting and important series of experiments have been made at the Government School of Musketry, Hythe, in order to test the comparative merits of these two rifles. The trial, which was of the most searching and impartial character, was conducted by Colonel Hay, the able head of the school, and has terminated in establishing beyond all doubt the decided superiority of Mr. Whitworth's invention. The Government rifle has a grooved barrel; Mr. Whitworth's a polygonal bore, with two turns in its length. In ten shots fired at 500 yards, the Manchester rifle had a superior accuracy of 1.87 of a foot; at 800 yards, 3.11; at 1,100 yards, 5.63; and at 1,400 yards the Enfield rifle ceased to afford any data for a comparison. In penetration the results were equally decisive; the Whitworth projectile with the regulation charge of powder going through thirty-three half-inch planks of elm, and being brought up by a solid oak bulk beyond, while the Enfield ball could not get past the thirteenth plank. It is said that the principles of rifling developed in the Manchester small-arm make it certain that rifled cannon can be made at a reasonable cost.

EXTENSIVE FIRES.—A fire broke out in a fine stack of warehouses in Spring Street, Liverpool, on Friday week, and in a few hours they were reduced to ruins. The buildings contained about 3,000 bales of cotton, a quantity of palm oil; and the basements room and other spirits. The entire loss, in building and stock, is estimated at £40,000, the greater part of which is covered by insurances. In Chancery Lane, on Saturday, a timber-yard and several houses were either totally or partially destroyed. On Saturday a fire broke out in the camp bakery at Aldershot. The large bakery was consumed, all that remains being the tall chimney shaft. Six of the extensive ovens were burned out, two large mills were gutted, and their contents are also consumed. About 1,000 loaves of bread and a quantity of flour have been saved.

JUDGMENT IN THE DENISON CASE.—In compliance with the mandamus of the Court of Queen's Bench, Sir John Dodson last week heard the appeal of the Venerable Archdeacon Denison from the Court of the Archbishop of Canterbury sitting at Bath. The only point that came before the Court was a technical objection to the whole suit, raised by Mr. Denison's proctors. When the case was before the Archbishop, they lodged a protest against further proceedings, on the ground that the suit could not be maintained, since it was commenced more than two years after the commission of the alleged offence, contrary to the statute. Overruled in the Bath court, this objection was renewed and argued before Sir John Dodson. The question was, whether the preliminary inquiry by a commission, or whether the service of a citation on Mr. Denison to appear at Bath, was the beginning of the suit. If the former, then the suit was begun within two years; if the latter, then it was begun after two years from the date of the offence. Sir John Dodson held that the suit began with the service of the citation; and he therefore reversed the decision of the Court of Bath. Notice of appeal was given on behalf of Mr. Ditcher.

A NEW TEMPERANCE ADVOCATE.—The Honourable Neil Dow, "father of the Maine Liquor Law," arrived in Liverpool last week. The friends of the "Great Temperance League" welcomed him on landing. In reply to questions, he denied a statement made in a letter from Mr. Gough, that "the Temperance cause in the United States is in a most distressed state; that the Maine Liquor Law is a dead letter; that there is more liquor consumed now in New York State than I have ever known, more in Massachusetts, and more everywhere." Mr. Dow intends to make an extensive tour through Great Britain and Ireland as a Temperance propagandist.

THE WRECK OF THE PALARMO.—The vessel which was found drifting, dismantled and water-logged, on the coast of Norway, with the crew starved to death, proves to be the Palarmo, of South Shields, belonging to Mr. John Clough, and commanded by his son, Mr. William Clough. She left Melmer in the middle of January. It is supposed that the principal portion of her crew was swept off her deck in the fearful gale that raged shortly after she passed Elsinore, and that the provisions and other stores having been washed out of her along with the roundhouse, the poor fellows found dead on board had perished of cold and hunger. Captain William Clough was the last of eleven sons whose death the father has to lament. Several of them perished at sea.

LAW AND CRIME.

At the Nisi Prius sittings, on Saturday last, a plaintiff, described as a rocking-horse maker, tried an action of assault against the landlord of a public-house. The defence was, that the plaintiff was in front of defendant's bar, using the grossest of language, and that on his refusing to leave when requested, defendant attempted, by the direction of a policeman, to remove him. It further appeared, that in the struggle which ensued plaintiff behaved so violently, that the policeman took him into custody, but that defendant when at the station declined to press the charge, on account of plaintiff's wife and family. Before the plaintiff's case was concluded, the jury attempted to stop further waste of time by a nonsuit. As this would have afforded plaintiff an opportunity of bringing another action, the counsel for the defence prudently insisted upon proceeding, and gained a verdict accordingly. The jury expressed their regret that such a case should have been brought into court. Anyone may easily see for what purpose the action was brought, and how little hope the plaintiff could ever have had of succeeding on a trial. In such cases as this some advantage might accrue to the public, were the law reporters to publish the names of the attorneys on each side. The jury would be giving way to no unparadise stretch of power were they publicly to express their admiration of the respectable and learned practitioner who could advise such an action, and employ his time, talents, and experience in bringing it before them. However, defendant has gained his cause. If he obtain his costs from a rocking-horse maker, who conducts himself at a public-house in the manner indicated, he will no doubt receive the congratulations of his friends. A case of a precisely similar character is reported in Friday's "Times," as having been tried at Guildhall. In this also the jury expressed a strong opinion on the case, but appear to have overlooked the attorney's share in the transaction.

Another dividend of 2s. 6d. in the pound is now in course of payment to the creditors of the Royal British Bank. With the official letter announcing this fact, each depositor receives a circular from the solicitor to the assignees recommending the acceptance of a proposal by the shareholders to pay, in full, 6s. 6d. in the pound beyond the bankruptcy assets. This may be very fair, and no doubt many would accept the offer, but for one slight omission. Not the slightest intimation is given of when the 6s. 6d. is to be paid! The explanation attempted in the circular, as to the impossibility of fixing the date of payment before obtaining the assent of the creditors, appears rather unsatisfactory.

We are indebted to a Suffolk correspondent for an extract from a local contemporary, "The Suffolk and Essex Free Press," containing an account of the doings of two rural justices at the late sessions at Melford. The report is amusing, as showing the most absurd disparity between punishments awarded at various hours of the day, by the same magistrates. A fellow who was lucky enough to be tried early, while the judicial powers of the august tribunal were as yet fresh and unwearied, received twenty-one days' hard labour for stealing a spade, value two shillings. No one can well cavil at this; but some hours afterwards, when weariness appears to have given rise to moroseness in the magisterial bosom, a married woman, for stealing two-pennyworth of turnip-tops from a field, was sentenced to hard labour for one month. No doubt the two clever worthies (for there were two of them) who passed these sentences, went home afterwards to dine—not on turnip tops, one may be sure—with a proud consciousness of having fulfilled their onerous duties in a manner highly calculated to reflect a lustre upon the national administration of the law.

The "Morning Star" of Tuesday last, after wondering what the police are about, and opening an article upon the "iniquity unblushingly perpetrated in open day, and in dark nights, in the streets," which would lead the reader to anticipate disclosures of more than usual atrocity, unfolds a supposed criminality, which must appear very funny to half the population. The writer, it appears, has been furnished with the card of a sporting-house in the Haymarket, at which some deed of horror, called a "ratting sweepstake," is to come off. "Dogs of any weight," saith this audacious card, "are to kill twenty rats." Hereon the reader of the article is required to believe that the dogs "will be goaded on to torture and tear the rats to pieces." The inference is totally wrong, as the dogs like the amusement and require no goading, and the rats are not tortured, or torn to pieces, like hunted stags or foxes. Grant that rats are not to live for ever, and their death in the sudden grip of a smart terrier, is as mercurial as any. The police are solemnly advised, that at this tavern meetings are held of "the fancy generally," also "for harmony, &c., with canine exhibition nights; entrance free, and open to all comers." This the writer regards as a climax, adding, "Those familiar with Haymarket indecencies can imagine the full meaning of these words." We who, like most other people, know their full meaning, can certainly imagine no impropriety beyond that inseparable from a party of pugilists and bird-fanciers exhibiting favourite bull-dogs and terriers, singing and boozing generally. But even blackguards must be amused, and, if so, then in their own way. One cannot expect them to be always playing the piano, or painting in water-colours, when at leisure. The article is well worthy perusal, for the curious misapprehension it displays, one which perhaps might be not quite so surprising in a paper less carefully conducted, as a rule, than our contemporary.

In the County Courts Act of some years ago, a right was reserved to plaintiffs in actions under £20 of suing in the superior courts in certain cases, such as where the parties resided above twenty miles apart, or where defendant left the jurisdiction in which the debt was contracted. In undefended actions judgment for the amount sued for carried costs, as a matter of course, even where these reservations did not apply. In the recent County Courts Amendment Act, it was provided that judgments in the superior courts for sums less than £20 should not carry costs except by order of a judge, and proof of the collateral jurisdiction given by the first-named act. This clause proved a great boon to some of the legal tribe, who secured thereby, in undefended actions within the rule, not only the costs of the judgment, but of the application on affidavit to a judge at chambers. This made matters worse for the poor defendants, but by a new rule of the superior courts the attorney is bound to indorse on the writ his intention to apply for the costs. This gives defendant a chance of opposition, and unless opposition be offered the indorsement renders the affidavit and order unnecessary, and by so much reduces the costs. Defendants in petty actions will therefore do well to look for this indorsement on their copy writs, and give notice of their opposition, if the demand be one properly within the jurisdiction of the county courts.

Lord Campbell has decided that a shareholder of a joint-stock bank is not liable to an action commenced against him individually. The judgment must be in the first instance recovered against the public officers of the bank, and leave be obtained, after due notice, to issue execution against the shareholder selected. This is the view which we some time since expressed upon the law on this subject; and the point is of considerable importance. His Lordship observed that the act (17 and 18 Vict., c. 113) was ill-drawn, and that "this statute, and others of a like kind, placed judges in an embarrassing situation, for they were at times required to make sense out of nonsense, and to reconcile things that were irreconcilable." Among statutes of this kind we may class the clauses relating to recovery of possession of tenements under the Common Law Procedure and the County Courts Act, both of which provide for ejectments only in the case where the landlord has the right of re-entry. If by this be meant such a right reserved by covenant between the parties, no enactment was required to confirm it; but if, on the other hand, is meant the mere legal ultimate title to the premises, the limitation is absurd, as no ejectment could possibly be maintained without it. As it stands, the landlord of a tenant from year to year may entertain doubts, which his lawyer will be unable to solve, as to whether he can recover possession for non-payment of rent, no matter for how long a period, without determination of the tenancy by notice to quit.

DEATH FROM SWALLOWING A PIN.—Mary Simpson, a nursery maid at Islington, placed a pin between her teeth while dressing herself, and accidentally swallowed it. The pin lodged in her throat, and she went to a neighbouring surgeon, who was unable to extract it. The poor girl continued in great agony for several days, and at length was taken to the University College Hospital, where everything was done to relieve her; but she gradually sunk, and died nine days after swallowing the pin. A post-mortem examination proved that she had died from an abscess in the throat occasioned by the pin, but the pin itself could not be discovered.

